



CROSSLink

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847.639.6533 Preschool Office
www.HolyCrossCary.org

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

March 2022

From Pastor's Desk

From Pastor's Desk (1[3]): God's Word

¹May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! ⁷Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. ⁸They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright. Psalm 20:1,7-8

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, ³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.... ⁶The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. ⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. ⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth. ⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. ¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" ¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Psalm 46

From Pastor's Desk (2[3]): World Events

"My Heart Is Breaking Over What We See Happening in Ukraine! Who knows what this will lead to??? What clear evidence of the evil that is so prevalent in our world. What is the old saying, "Absolute power corrupts absolutely!" We see people who should know better act with evil intent to harm others. People in a position to hold back, help and protect instead refrain from action because of fear or apathy and thus allow evil to continue." (I think of history and people who were afraid to stand up to Hitler and other such people and all that it led to... Are we seeing something similar in our day?)

About three years ago I attended a conference for interim pastors in Maryland. I saw and briefly met several friendly Ukrainian soldiers who were staying and eating at the same center. (I assume, for military training at a nearby base.) I cannot help but wonder where they are, what they are facing, or if they are still alive.

A good friend of the family has been serving as a missionary in Ukraine, for her safety, she was told to leave Ukraine about four weeks ago. With the many dire threats being aired against any who would help Ukraine, one wonders if there is true safety anywhere?

I think of family members and friends who are now serving in the armed forces and the armed reserves of the USA. I think of family members and friends who serve in law enforcement, as first responders, the health field and other such roles that help protect us and maintain our freedoms. On so many levels, what dangerous times these are for them and for all of us! Continually, for us all, "we trust in the name of the LORD our God" "God is our refuge and strength!"

In today's background remains the tension of mainland China concerning Taiwan. I have my only son serving as a teacher in Taiwan. Like myself, he has many interests and loves to share the promises and love of Jesus whenever he has the opportunity. I pray daily for peace and wisdom for all who are in positions of authority in China, Taiwan and the surrounding area. I pray for the safety and well-being of my son and his many friends living in Taiwan, mainland China, and throughout Asia.

LORD, HAVE MERCY!

From Pastor's Desk (3|3): MARCHING FORWARD - TRUSTING THE LORD – FOLLOWING JESUS!

¹¹ "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare (peace) and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

It was an important meeting of the Elders, Governing Board and the Call Committee this past Monday. We talked about our need to pursue the additional staff that we will need for our ministry goals – and how we will find a way to do this because we are serious and committed to these goals that I mentioned in last month's newsletter:

- 1) **Youth Ministries – ages 3-18**
- 2) **Family Ministries – especially young families**
- 3) **Senior Ministries**
- 4) **Outreach**

Some of what I shared in that meeting, I now share with you:

1. **I am in a sprint** for these next two months doing all I can to help us 'March' into the next chapter of God's plan and ministry here at Holy Cross. I am totally on board! Will you join me?
2. We are marching past Covid – putting the fear of Covid behind us! We will be wise, kind, patient and courageous in our dealings with one another, understanding of health, emotional and spiritual concerns. We urge each member and friend of Holy Cross to strive to **develop the habit of being in God's house for worship, fellowship and ministry each week you are in town**. You and the encouragement of your presence are missed!
3. **I (and eventually others) will be calling on members and friends of Holy Cross:**
 - a. **My cell number is 402-580-2929** (please put it in your phone so when I get a chance to call you – you know it is me AND you will answer AND you will talk with me **AND MAKE MY DAY!!!!**)
4. **I (and others) are in a sprint to do all we can to encourage a large push in increasing church and fellowship attendance! We want young families and children and people of all ages to be present!!!**
 - a. **We are adding a 5:00 PM service time to go with our 7:00 PM on Wednesday nights during Lent.**
 - b. We are **adding a meal and fellowship time from 5:30–6:30 PM** on Wednesday nights.
 - c. We will have a **children's message at nearly every worship service going forward!**
 - d. The **Wednesday evening services will be about 35 minutes long** (Ash Wednesday – 55)
 - e. Also, my strong goal for the length of our weekend services will be 55-65 minutes. You may notice some variety and adjustments that I, Laura and others believe will assist your meaningful worship experience. Let us know what you think!
 - f. One of our staff said: "Tell them that I need them to be present! I am encouraged by their presence!" I assure you that this will always be true of your pastor as well! 😊 **The pastor and your fellow members always love to see you in the worship, fellowship, Bible Study, service and other activities of your congregation!**
5. **"The Lord loves a joyful giver!"** I am working to have two weekends, sometime before Easter Sunday where we will include a stewardship emphasis. I will need help to make this happen! Know that anything positive from this will be to your benefit and the encouragement of your next pastor and your ministry together. It won't benefit me – I will be 'down the road' but I will rejoice with you!!!
6. **I want to help encourage a greater level of commitment and participation by all members and friends of Holy Cross. In worship attendance, fellowship, Bible Study and service!**
7. **Before I leave, I want to have the gifts and pledges in place to cover the cost of the window and stained glass repair! I hate unfunded 'mandates' and lingering debts!**
8. **I want to have the gifts and pledges in place to pay for the cost of additional parking on the north side (high school side) of the church.** [I am told people have talked about this need for years. I have observed the need and value of such parking spaces for evening meetings, etc. to help people avoid long, sometimes bitter cold, walks to the front doors of the church and offices. **The trustees have put together a proposal to address this need. I think it's time to act! What do you think?** Act on this or add this to the long list of things that we have had the practice of putting off for years and years?? Tell me and your church leadership what you think!

I am striving to do my part, in the time that God grants me to remain as your pastor. My last Sunday with you is planned for May 1. My prayer and goal is to see the above things in place AND that we will know the identity of our next resident pastor by the time I 'ride off into the sunset'.

Regardless of the status of our call process, we will continue to march forward in ministry, commitment and faith, trusting our Lord Jesus and striving to do the work He has given us to do in this time and place. I see a lot of great things happening here at Holy Cross, now and into the future. We appear to be so ready to move beyond Covid, our grief over the retirement of a pastor, and our past missteps as a congregation. I think we are ready and eager to grasp the good and many positives of our past history and continue to grow forward in ministry! We appear to be ready and eager to be the church that God has called, gifted and purposed us to be! The great excitement I have observed over the return of the Lenten meal and the addition of the 5:00 PM service time during Lent is just one example!

There's not a lot of remaining time for me here, but praise be to God, the current work and ministry of Holy Cross Lutheran is NOT dependent on me or any future pastor, or any other staff person that will be added to the leadership team of Holy Cross. **This work and ministry that God has given to Holy Cross belongs to ALL! This is the life-changing work that we have the privilege of doing NOW!** This ministry is what we are calling our next pastor to join us in continuing and expanding!

Some of my personal goals (plans) here at Holy Cross, continue to be:

1. Continue to be a present and caring pastor (even as I continue to travel once every three weeks to spend a few days in Nebraska).
2. Find opportunities to personally express my thanks and gratitude for the many, many kindnesses that I have experienced from so many here at Holy Cross.
3. Start and set into place the home study plan for our next confirmation class.
4. Visit and commune our shut-ins on a monthly basis!
5. Personally call, meet and/or visit with as many 'inactive' members and friends of Holy Cross that I can in an ongoing effort to encourage them to step up, take their place, and become again (or maybe for the first time) an active part of the Holy Cross family.

A personal goal, over the next three weeks, is to make a decision about where I will next serve as a pastor in the LCMS. Though these do NOT affect my time here at Holy Cross, I still need to make a decision concerning two calls I presently have: one to serve as an Intentional Interim Pastor (IIM) at Peace Lutheran, Hutchinson, Minnesota. One to serve as a 30 hour a week, 'part-time' associate pastor at St. Mark Lutheran, Omaha, Nebraska (this is the church to which Sue and I belong, and which Sue and her 98 year-old mother attend every week). Both would have me start serving around August 1. I'm not certain I want to hang up my IIM cleats but not sure I want to continue to serve in a way that keeps me away from home so much. I appreciate your prayers.

Also pray for more people to step up in service as pastors, teachers, DCEs, Deaconesses, Youth Directors, etc. There is such a shortage. For me personally, within the next three months, I could have become seven pastors and had a pastoral position for each of them. That is not right or healthy for our church. ***"And He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."*** Luke 10:2

In Conclusion:

God has a plan and purpose for this congregation, each and every one of you! What will you do? Join Samuel when he says, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening!" Join King David when he says, "I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the House of the Lord!'" Join Isaiah in saying, "Here I am, send me, send me!" And where God leads and directs, may we always follow – always serving God and always reflecting God's love and care for everyone around us. With the arrival of Lent, I am entering into 'sprint' mode. I invite you to 'jog' along with me. Let's see what God will bring about through His people gathered together in His Word, trusting Jesus! Know that when I move on, I will continue to keep you all in my prayers as I watch 'from afar'!

So thankful for the privilege of being your pastor!

In Christ, Pastor Glenn Meyer "Keep leaning on Jesus!"

Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday March 2

THIS YEAR'S THEME - WITNESSES TO CHRIST: PEOPLE FROM HIS PASSION

Midweek Lenten Services will be every Wednesday, March 2–April 6 at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. (Ash Wednesday service estimate 55-60 minutes and the remaining Wednesday services 30-35 minutes.)

This Lent, our life in Christ will be strengthened as we hear the witness of those in John's Gospel who journeyed to the cross. Along the way, we'll meet villains, such as Barabbas and Pontius Pilate, as well as sinners, such as Peter (who denied Jesus *three* times), Mary Magdalene (who was possessed by *seven* demons), and Judas Iscariot (who betrayed Jesus for *thirty* pieces of silver).

ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME!

- 5:00 PM – Worship in the sanctuary (children's message included)
- 5:30–6:30 PM – Food, refreshments & desserts provided
- 5:30–6:45 PM - Fun & fellowship
- 7:00 PM – Worship in the sanctuary (children's message included)

Please join us for worship as we hear the witness of these people in John's Gospel.

Lenten Family Dinners

We will be offering light dinners on the Wednesdays of Lent 5:30–6:30 PM in the fellowship hall. Fellowship with others is an enjoyable perk!!

Dinner hosts –

March 2	Governing Board – Sloppy Joes
March 9	Holy Cross Lofters Dartball - Chili
March 16	Lazzerinis – Stix & Noodles food truck
March 23	OWLS
March 30	Choir
April 6	Joan Adams - Mostaccioli

Food Collection

During Lent we will be collecting food for the Cary Food Pantry. We will collect these items in the Narthex, LOFT, and at the Lenten dinners.

Call Committee Update

At this time, we are reviewing the list of Pastoral Call candidates from the district. If any member of Holy Cross would like to submit a name for our consideration, please pick up a nomination form in the office.

New Video Series

Brad Miller will be hosting a 3-part video series starting Thursday, March 3 shown in the lower level LOFT starting at 7:00 PM. The first video is titled "Christianity and the Competition", comparing Christianity to other religions. The second video is titled "The Gospels" and is similar to Ken Hauser's previous video titled "That the World May Know", but Brad's video has more of an archeological emphasis. The third video is titled "Acts to Revelation" and relates to Paul's journeys as described in the book of Acts. All are invited. Please join us.

Opportunities Abound

Is everyday life monotonous or stressful? Feeling nudged to try something new?

The LOFT worship team is looking for a few good folks to help out with running slides, readings, working sound/track systems, setting up chairs(2nd or 3rd Sundays,) keyboards, guitar, percussion and vocalists. If any of these servant opportunities sound interesting, give us a try!! No experience necessary (except instrumental). We will train. Commit to as often as you would like. We would love to see some new faces. Call for more info. Contact Liz Gezella at 847-639-5664 or Ellen Gezella at 815-382-3343.

OWLS Happenings

OWLS will meet at noon March 3 in the lower LOFT. Bring your lunch and join us for an afternoon with friends. Barb and Mel Molzer will host the meeting and provide dessert, beverages and a devotion. We will play table games, cards, dominoes and enjoy conversation.

It is time to start planning for items to go into Easter bags for shut-ins that will be packed at our April Meeting.

OWLS plan to go to Palatine to play indoor mini golf on Thursday, March 17. Afterward we will stop by Bakers' Square and check out the pie selection. We can plan carpools or meet there. Please, sign up on the OWLS bulletin board so we can make plans.

Everyone is invited to join us on a regular basis or whenever our plans interest you.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt - April 17

Holy Cross's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be April 17 **starting at 10:15 AM** on the west end of the parking lot (weather permitting).

We will hunt for the eggs, come in and sort out the candy and then head to the 10:45AM service where the kids will participate in singing and the Children's Sermon. We will then bring all the kids down for a special Sunday School with Palm Sunday/Easter games, snack, and a craft to follow DURING the 10:45AM service. **All ages are welcome!**

March Birthdays

Carol Bruhn	03/01
Pat Donahue	03/01
Lori Deasy	03/02
Pete Henning	03/07
Anne Boone	03/10
Kim Celli	03/12
Ilesha Dunker	03/12
Heather Michels	03/16
John Ewert	03/16
Marilyn Forman	03/18
Janet Beetham	03/23
Kiara Martel	03/24
Rich Girard	03/26

Esther Olson	03/29
Debbie Wagner	03/29
Sue Penkava	03/30
Sandy Hauser	03/30
Bronwyn Steiner	03/31

March 2022

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p>*Pastor available by cell #402-580-2929</p>		<p>1</p> <p>10:00A Adult Bible Study 6:30P Dartball (home game)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:00P Ash Wednesday worship 5:30-6:30P Lenten dinner 7:00P Ash Wednesday worship</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Noon OWLS 7:00P Video Series</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:30P Worship</p>
<p>6</p> <p>8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00A Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:00P Lenten worship 5:30-6:30P Lenten dinner 7:00P Lenten worship</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00A Prayer Shawl 7:00P Video Series</p>	<p>11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Northern Illinois</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:30P Worship 7:00P Taizé Service District Convention</p>
<p>13</p> <p>8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30P Elders</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00A Adult Bible Study 6:30P Dartball (home game)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:00P Lenten worship 5:30-6:30P Lenten dinner 7:00P Lenten worship</p>	<p>17</p> <p>OWLS to Palatine 7:00P Video Series</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:30P Worship</p>
<p>20</p> <p>8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30P Governing Board</p> <p style="text-align: center;">[-----]</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00A Adult Bible Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;">----- Pastor -----</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:00P Lenten worship 5:30-6:30P Lenten dinner 7:00P Lenten worship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">in Nebraska*-----</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00A Prayer Shawl</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	<p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----]</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5:30P Worship</p>
<p>27</p> <p>8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00A Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:00P Lenten worship 5:30-6:30P Lenten dinner 7:00P Lenten worship</p>	<p>31</p>		