



CROSSLink

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

MARCH 2025

FROM PASTORS DESK

“ Goals vs. Systems”

Pastor Zac Patterson

We love to talk about goals. “I’m going to be healthier”, “I’m going to get in shape”, “I’m going to get a promotion at work”, or “I’m going to spend more time with my family.” Goals are great things! They give us something to strive for; something that will make us better people. James Clear, in his book Atomic Habits, makes the distinction between “goals” and “systems”. The “goal” is the desired outcome, whereas the “system” is the collection of daily habits. He claims that focusing on your “system” is actually more important than your “goal”.

This separation of goals and systems is something we see all over the place. For a basketball coach, the goal is to win a championship, while the system is recruiting players, training them at practice, studying film, etc. For an entrepreneur, the goal is to build a successful business, while the system is how you hire good employees, testing your products, marketing and advertising, etc. We can actually see this in the Great Commission. Jesus gives the goal, “...make disciples of all nations...”. He then gives the system, “...by 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.” We practice that system in many different ways at Holy Cross. We baptize people in our worship services and teach them through worship, Bible classes, Sunday School, our Microschool, Confirmation, Kids for Christ, VBS, etc. It does no good for a basketball team to say they want a championship but never practice and just look at the scoreboard during games hoping the points will come. Likewise, it does no good for the Church to say, “let’s make disciples,” but never share the Gospel or teach proper doctrine. The system is the means to achieving the goal.

I want to take this idea and apply it to our challenge for 2025. We have two goals: attend church every week and tithe 10% of your income back to God. Some of you may already be doing these. Some may be close, but perhaps you go to church twice a month and tithe 7%. For others, you only go to church on Christmas and Easter and when you do go, you throw a \$20 in the offering plate. These goals could be a little change or a drastic one. If you don’t have the system in place to achieve the goal, how do you build a system that works?

It starts by identifying the goals you want to achieve. I can tell you these are good goals until I’m blue in the face, but the process of change won’t start until you tell yourself that these are YOUR goals for the year. Once you identify those goals, you break them down into smaller habits, things that are simple and easy to accomplish. Then, you repeat those habits regularly over time to create a new system.

Perhaps the biggest obstacle in this process is what happens when you fail. What happens when I have the goal of going to church, but I miss a week? James Clear says, “it’s not about being perfect, it’s about being consistent.” He also has another mantra, “never miss twice”. He gives the example of someone trying to eat healthier. Maybe they have been eating healthily all week but then binge eat a

whole pizza that Saturday. Is everything ruined? Is the system broken? No. He says that person shouldn't lose hope. Instead, they should acknowledge that they ate the pizza, realize that's not what they should've done, and then focus on making the next meal a healthy one. If you bounce back every time you don't follow your system, you'll end up with more positive than negative and your system will be strengthened, eventually leading to accomplishing your goals.

The same thing goes for our goals for 2025. What happens when you intend to come to church but then miss or you plan to write that check for the offering but forget? Don't get discouraged! You acknowledge those things happened, realize that's not in line with your goals, and then focus on making it the next week or write next week's check right away. Don't worry about being perfect but try to be consistent. Consistency is what makes good habits stick. We'll go deeper into how you build these habits over the next 5 months.

So, looking at our goals for 2025 (attending church & tithing 10%), I want you all to ask yourselves these questions for each goal:

1. Goal #1 – attend church every weekend

- a. Are your current habits getting you to church every weekend?
- b. If not, what would be a better system to get you to church?

2. Goal #2 – tithe 10% of your income

- a. Are your current habits leading you to tithe 10% of your income?
- b. If not, what would be a better system to increase your tithing?

This isn't the end-all-be-all for changing habits, but it's an important place to start, looking at the current systems you have in place, how they fit in with your goals, and then examining how you can begin to change your system little by little to better accomplish your goals. Little and consistent changes can lead to incredible results.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

This month's classes are March 4, 11, 18, & 25 at 10am in the conference room.

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

LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) has resumed monthly meetings on the second Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the church library. March 10 is the next meeting to enjoy fellowship, a Bible study, coffee & tea.

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Holy Cross Lutheran Microschool is now enrolling for the 2025-2026 school year, offering a nurturing environment for grades preschool through 8th grade.

We provide a full curriculum that ignites a love of learning and also offer hybrid homeschool options for a personalized fit.

Contact our principal, Chrissy Heiss, at 847-639-6533 or principal@holycrosscary.org. We can't wait to hear from you!

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROOP IL5140. Next meetings are Saturday, March 8 & 22 at 2:00pm. 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: Saturday, March 8 & 22 at 2pm.

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.

PRAYER SHAWL

This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 10 a.m. for Bible study and fellowship. 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.

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!!! We have 3 people serving together so it's easy. Please support this important ministry!

SCHOOL FUNDRAISERS: In 2024 we received \$2,029.56 back from our restaurant fundraisers for Holy Cross Lutheran Microschool! **Thank you all** for your support of our school ministry! Please continue to support this important outreach teaching children in a Christ centered environment.

Our next fundraiser is Monday, Feb. 10 through Friday, Feb. 15 at Breaking Bread Deli and catering. They Are offering us 15% back on orders all this week at both their Cary and Crystal Lake locations. It's a great local family business . Support the school and have a delicious "No Cook" lunch or dinner!

ATTENDANCE: February 2025

2/2/25	8:30am Worship
	10:45am Cont.
2/8/25	5:30pm Trad.
	7:00pm Taize
2/9/25	8:30am Trad.
	10:45am Cont.
2/16/25	8:30am Trad.
	10:45am Cont.
2/22/25	5:30pm Trad.
2/23/25	8:30am Trad.
	10:45am Cont.

We have a new way of giving your offering!

Scan the QR code below with your phone.

This will bring you to our secure online giving page through Vanco.



Church Offerings YTD through 12/2024

Bequests:	\$ 66,142	(budgeted \$ 45,000)	(prev year \$ 70,453)
Envelopes:	\$248,683	(budgeted \$350,093)	(prev year \$277,672)
Electronic Giving:	\$ 11,808	(budgeted \$ 12,000)	(prev year \$ 11,734)
Loose (plate offering):	\$ 5,423	(budgeted \$ 7,000)	(prev year \$ 6,668)
TOTAL:	\$332,056	(budgeted \$414,093)	(prev year \$366,527)

March Birthdays Happy Birthday!!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Pat Donahue
2 Madison Lazenby	3 Charlie Fowles	4 Wendy Maulding	5	6	7	8
9	10 Anne Boone Stephanie Stolz	11	12	13 Halo Gregory	14	15
16 Heather Michels John Ewert Linda Barham	17 Marilyn Wenzel	18 Marilyn Forman	19	20 Greg Goodrich	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Esther Olson
30 Sue Penkava	31 Bronwyn Steiner					

FROM THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT:

* If anyone would like to lead a group project for "Shine", please bring your ideas to Pastor Patterson.



SHINE! 2025

We want to let you know the dates for *SHINE!* 2025 are scheduled for Friday, April 4, 2025 through Sunday, April 13, 2025. It's not too early to begin planning how your group will serve others in your community!

More details will follow in the coming months. In the meantime, if you have any questions or thoughts, please contact Sue Green at sue.green@nidlcms.org or 708-223-3116.




Are you being nudged to join a short-term mission team? Is the Belize Mission Society a fit for you?

Anyone that is a nurse or medical practitioner is asked to prayerful consider learning more about the upcoming Belize Mission Trip and joining them. The dates are June 14 to 21, 2025. Please reach out to Ellen Madsen at ellen@madsenohana.com if you are interested.

March 2025

What's Happening This Month:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 No Worship
2 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:45am Worship	3	4 10am Bible Class Portillo's School Fundraiser 7:30pm Dartball vs Is. Lk-home	5 7:00pm Service ASH WEDNESDAY 7:45pm Choir	6 12- OWLS 2:30 "Tune Up" Thursday 4:15-6:30 KFC	7 9:25am Chapel	8 2-4pm American Heritage Girls & Trail Life 5:30pm Children's Choir Singing 7:00pm Taize
9 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:45am Worship	10 6:30pm LWML	11 10am Bible Class 6:30pm Elder's Meeting	12 5:00pm Finance Meeting 5:15pm Lent Potluck 7:00pm Lent service 7:45pm Choir	13 10:00am Prayer Shawl 2:30 "Tune Up" Thursday 4:15-6:30 KFC	14 9:25am Chapel	15 No Worship
16 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:45am Worship	17	18 10:00am Bible Class 6:30pm Governing Board	19 5:15pm Lent Potluck 7:00pm Lent service 7:45pm Choir	20 12 OWLS Outing 2:30 "Tune Up" Thursday 4:15-6:30 KFC	21 9:25 Chapel	22 11am Memorial Service for Kimberly Diebler 2-4pm American Heritage Girls & Trail Life 5:30PM Worship
23 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:45am Worship	24	25 10:00am Bible Class	26 5:15pm Lent Potluck 7:00pm Lent service 7:45pm Choir	27 10:00am Prayer Shawl 2:30 "Tune Up" Thursday 4:15-6:30 KFC 6:45pm Trustees	28	