



CROSSLink

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

April 2022

From Pastor's Desk

“Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.” Proverbs 16:3

This verse was part of my daily devotion, I found it helpful. I trust you will also.

In many ways this is my 'Auf Wiedersehen – till we meet again in Christ' letter. April is my last month with you as your Intentional Interim Pastor (IIP). You extended me a unanimous call to serve among you for 12–18 months. 18 months comes up end of April. May 1 will be my last worship service.

I had hoped to see my work wrapped up and us calling our next resident pastor within 10 months, but that didn't happen. The longevity of Covid-19 fears along with other things were used by Satan to keep many Christians across our land from meeting together for worship, encouragement and reconciliation in Christ. It is tough to resolve old hurts in grace and forgiveness when you don't even see one another!

Watching on TV just doesn't match when we can be together in person! But, in spite of the challenges, God continues to do awesome things. Many blessings are coming out of this Covid season, one of which is that our churches are becoming less 'pastor-centric'. More and more people are grasping the Biblical truth of this fact, the ministry of reconciliation – sharing the Good News of Christ, belongs to ALL God's people of faith! I am thrilled to see people stepping forward in new and renewed ways of service to God and to one another!

I am so thankful for the wonderful people I have met here at Holy Cross and in the area! I thank God for the many things that we have seen accomplished and carried out during the past 18 months. There is also much in the works. Many great things happened where my contribution was just staying out of the way of what God is doing! By God's grace and favor, seeing the opportunity and the resources already in place, I see great things in the future, as 'we continue to commit our work to the Lord!'. Keep the faith, keep leaning on Jesus, and do not be ashamed to trust God's Word and proclaim His saving grace!

You have all grown on me. I will cherish my time with and among you. Your kindness, patience, understanding, and generosity have been greatly appreciated. I thank God for each and every one of you! There are many who have a great desire and passion to see the work and ministry done in this place that we know God is asking of us! The year of Kids for Christ, the confirmation classes, the Lenten services and meals, Dart Ball, Golf, OWLS, the home visits and some wonderful meals, and the kindness and generosity..... Just scratches the surface of all that I thank God for as I think of all of you and the time we have shared together.

I care deeply about all of you. I pray that the ones who have been taking an 'I'll wait and see what happens before I return' approach will soon be back in worship and fellowship. When they do, I am certain that they will see and experience what many are already experiencing..... Here at Holy Cross, by God's grace, we have some GREAT people! People who love the Lord, are gracious and forgiving, and love one another. We're not perfect. At times we can act like stinkers, but we don't give up on one another and we love and forgive as ones first loved and forgiven by God! We strive to continually put the best construction on things and love covers a multitude of sins!

Some things are starting to come together in ways that I have long wanted to see. This newsletter is full of special activities and events that are happening, being planned and expanding. It warms my heart to see this taking place. Last weekend, seeing a family returning to church after being absent for some time because of Covid. I saw the evident joy and laughter as friends visited, reflecting God's love and compassion that is such a key ingredient in the caring family in Christ that we have here at Holy Cross.

Yes, there is so much that I thought I should still try to do. But the thought is becoming clearer, "Meyer, it's time to start letting go....." It's time for me to think about spending some special time at home, welcoming grandchildren moving in from California and beginning my long preparations for the next place of service that God has set before me.

I have asked for a special meeting with the Board of Governance that will take place on April 4. It will be part of my 'wrap up' process, sharing my observations and some advice for them going forward. I also hope to lead Holy Cross through one more spiritual exercise that I believe will be helpful. I will share the details with them on April 4. Regardless of what we decide, we will all be wise to continually take steps in our plans and commitments before the Lord moving forward. Jesus is Lord! Our trust is in Him! Let us reflect this in our worship attendance, in our ministry involvement and in our faithful stewardship!

My prayer all along has been that we will know the identity of our next resident pastor at the time of my last Sunday with you. With a call meeting on Wednesday, April 6, God may yet answer my prayer with a resounding 'Yes!' We will see. God's will be done and in His time! In the meantime, we all have work and ministry that needs to continue until the Lord calls us home!

The short devotion I mentioned earlier ended with these words, "But as we will see tomorrow, trusting (in Jesus) is just one piece of the puzzle. In order to be effective instruments in the hands of our Caller, we must hustle hard in our chosen work." As I read it, "Yes, we trust in the Lord AND we strive to do the work that God has called us all to do!" This isn't a time to wait and see. This is not a time to waver in our commitments and dedication to the Lord. The time is too short. The spiritual welfare of so many is at stake, many of whom are counted among dear relatives and friends. Let us gladly do and be all that God has called and gifted us, here at Holy Cross, to be at this time and place, trusting always in the Lord and always striving to follow where He is leading.

Yes, it is a difficult time for faithful churches across our land. We in the LCMS have been roundly criticized for refusing to 'get with the times'. We have been told in clear language that we should STOP calling sin what God's Word clearly says is sin! Whom will we obey? Whom will we fear and trust? Our trust is in Jesus and His Word. We hold and esteem God's Word in the same way that Jesus held and quoted God's Word as He walked on this earth. The world says that they know better than Jesus. We disagree. We know our temptations, weaknesses and that we are prone to wander. Our trust is in God! We desire to hear His voice. We trust His Word! We follow Jesus! We are not perfect, and we admit our struggles. We confess our sins and invite all to kneel beside us and seek God's forgiveness. To all who admit and confess their sin (not covering it up or denying it) and believe and trust in Jesus, we share this assurance and Good News from Jesus, "Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven you! Go in peace!"

"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." Proverbs 16:3

Know that I will continue to be at work with and among you for the next month. On my last weekend with you, I will then be asking you to release me of my pastoral responsibilities for you before God as I then begin my preparations for the next congregation I will serve as an IIP. Also know this, I will continue to pray for you and will continue to be eager to hear news of what God continues to be doing in, among and through the many dear brothers & sisters in Christ here at Holy Cross.

In case you had not heard, I did make a decision on where I believe God is leading me for my next place of service: I accepted the call to serve as the Intentional Interim Pastor at Peace Lutheran, Hutchinson, MN. I will be visiting there later in May and plan to begin my service among them on August 1. I desire your prayers as it will be once again a long commute from my home. One consolation will be that three of our grandchildren live 40 minutes from this church.

So thankful for the privilege of being your pastor! Auf Wiedersehen! God be with you till we meet again!

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

Special Voters' Meeting April 6 to Call a Pastor

The Governing Board has called a **special voters' meeting** for **Wednesday, April 6 at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary**. The call committee will present its candidates for pastor at Holy Cross and those in attendance will have an opportunity to vote. All members ages 18 and older are encouraged to attend.

We will still have our midweek Lenten services on April 6. The first service will run from 5-5:30 PM. The 7:00 PM service should start approximately on time after the voters' meeting.

Please keep this special meeting in your prayers that God's will be done and please plan to be a part of this important decision making.

Spring Craft and Bake Sale April 2 & 3

This weekend after services a craft and bake sale will benefit LWML projects locally and worldwide through MITE contributions. Check out the bird houses made and donated by Pete Penkava and add some color to your spring garden.

Lenten Worship Concludes

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

Midweek Lenten Services conclude on Wednesday, April 6 at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM in the sanctuary.

5:00 PM – Worship in the sanctuary (children's message included)

6:00 PM – Special Voters' meeting

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.

OWLS Happenings

OWLS will meet in the lower LOFT on Thursday, April 7 at noon. Elaine Hagenmuller will be the host and prepare a devotion, dessert and beverages. Come and spend an afternoon with friends. Easter bags for shut-ins will be packed - a list of needed items is posted on the bulletin board.

OWLS will have their first picnic of the season on Thursday, April 21 at noon. The place is TBD. Check the bulletin board for details, please. It will be 'pot luck' and you may bring something to grill.

Confirmation Classes (all 6th – 9th grade invited) Lower LOFT

Pastor Meyer has scheduled confirmation classes for every Saturday and two Wednesdays of April: Saturdays 10 AM-Noon and Wednesday, April 13 and April 27 from 6:00–7:30 PM. For more information, contact Pastor Meyer.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt - April 10 at 10:15 AM

Holy Cross's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be April 10 **starting at 10:15AM** 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 10:45 AM 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 10:45 AM service.

All ages welcome!

Prayer Boards Update

We are clearing our prayer boards in the Narthex and LOFT to start fresh for our prayer vigil. Please add any prayers you would like prayed during the vigil starting Good Friday and continuing thru to Easter. And sign up for the prayer vigil!!

Prayer Vigil

Time slots are still available for our prayer vigil starting on Good Friday, April 15 from 9:00 PM to midnight and on Saturday, April 16 from 6:00 AM to midnight. The vigil is divided into one hour time slots. Sign-up sheets are on the tables in the narthex and the LOFT lobby. Please pick a time that works for you and join us.

A Look Ahead to Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday	April 14	7:00 PM
Good Friday	April 15	Noon and 7:00 PM
Easter Sunday	April 17	8:00 & 9:30 AM (sanctuary) 10:45 AM (LOFT)
No worship service Saturday, April 16		

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.

From Our Governing Board

The Governing Board is working on several ministries at Holy Cross. Each member has taken a ministry project and reports back their progress to the Board each month. Here are some notes we want to share with you.

Homeschool at Holy Cross:

Next year a local Christian homeschool co-op will be using the LOFT two days a week instead of one day like this past year. The Governing Board is looking into a lease rather than a rent agreement for protection for both Holy Cross and the homeschool community. A lease is common in other LCMS churches working with outside organizations. Please see Dori Chianakas or Katie Shaykin with any questions.

Preschool at Holy Cross:

The Governing Board will be interviewing a preschool director this week in hopes of opening a part-time preschool next school year. We hope that the following year the school will increase in numbers. The candidate we are considering is already an LCMS rostered teacher and living in a nearby community. Please keep this opportunity in your prayers. Please see Dori Chianakas with any questions.

Lenten Dinners:

Thank you to Ellen Gezella and Donna Stefinsky for starting up the Wednesday Lenten dinners again this year. They have been a huge success and there are plans for an Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt as well. The fellowship at the dinners and church services at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM have been a wonderful time to visit with friends and worship midweek in addition to the weekend! Please see Ellen Gezella or Donna Stefinsky with any questions.

OWLS:

Did you know that acronym stands for Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors? The OWLS has the most attendance of all committees in the church! All OWLS (those ages 60 and older) are welcome to join. Please see Diane Perrone for more information.

Youth Groups:

Phil Stanko and Karth Barr are working on starting youth groups again at our church. Lots of ideas are being shared. Please see one of them if you have any questions.

Mother/ Daughter Tea:

Katie Shaykin is organizing a Mother and Daughter Tea at Holy Cross sometime this spring. Ideas being considered are tea, lemonade, crafts, and finger sandwiches. More information will be forthcoming. Please see Katie Shaykin with any questions.

Video Series

Brad Miller continues to host a video series on Thursdays shown in the lower level LOFT starting at 7:00 PM. The current video study 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.

Sisters in Christ Spring Gathering

Sisters in Christ is a spring gathering at Holy Cross for all the women of Holy Cross, their friends and neighbors on **Saturday, April 30**. The morning will start with coffee and a light breakfast at 8:45 AM. There will be a time of prayer, praise and Bible study based on "Age of Grace". There will be a time of service to make cards and tie fleece blankets for PHIL'S FRIENDS, a ministry to cancer patients.

There is no charge for this gathering, but gifts to Phil's Friends are welcome, including: hats and caps, fuzzy socks for women, fragrance free small lotions, decks of playing cards, puzzle books and gift cards in small amounts. These should be all new items, please. RSVP to Diane Perrone.

Sunday School - Rest of the School Year Schedule

FISH Club has been meeting during the 10:45 service since September from ~11:15 AM –noon. We have 5-10 kids coming each week and would love to have more friends join us ages 3 years old to 6th grade. Come one week to see if your kids enjoy it. No commitment required!

FISH Club will NOT be meeting on April 3 due to Spring Break and on April 17 because of Easter. Please come to the Easter "Pancake" Breakfast served from 9-10:30 AM that morning instead.

Sunday, April 3	No FISH Club, Spring Break
Sunday, April 10	ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT & Special Sunday School starting at 10:15 AM
Sunday, April 17	No FISH Club, Easter
Sunday, April 24	Regular FISH Club
Sunday, May 1	Regular FISH Club
Sunday, May 8	Regular FISH Club -- Mother's Day Craft!
Sunday, May 15	Regular FISH Club
Sunday, May 22	LAST DAY OF FISH CLUB -- Break for summer!

Chrismon Workshop

CHRISMON WORKSHOPS continue monthly with the next date of April 24 at 10:30 AM in the narthex. Kits to work on at home are in the church coatroom to the left of the member mailboxes. Completed chrismons can also be left there as well. Help is available if needed to complete a project.

Stained-Glass Window Project Update

At our congregational meeting held on August 22, 2021, it was voted to repair and restore our stained-glass windows at a cost of \$152,139 with Cathedral Crafts Inc. of Winona, MN. A contingency of \$5,000 was added for incidental expenses (total cost \$157,139). At that time, we signed a contract with a projected start of June/July 2022. We have recently received an update from Cathedral Crafts in that the project will start either

the week of May 2 or May 9. This is a month or two earlier than originally planned. Estimated time for completion is 90 days.

As of January 31, 2022, there was \$38,200 in our Stained-Glass Window fund. **Funding yet needed to complete the project is \$118,939.** Our weekly offering envelopes have a designated line for the Stained-Glass Windows. Your financial support is much needed and appreciated. We look forward to the beginning of this much-needed repair and restoration project that hopefully will be completed and totally funded when finished this summer.

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*Pastor available by cell #402-580-2929					1	2 10A-noon confirmation (lower LOFT) 5:30P Worship
3 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club	4 6:30P Governing Board	5 10:00A Adult Bible Study	6 5:00P Lenten worship 6:00P Special Voters' Meeting 7:00P Lenten worship	7 OWLS 7:00P Video Series	8	9 10A-noon confirmation (lower LOFT) 5:30P Worship 7:00P Taizé Service
10 PALM SUNDAY 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Bible Study 10:15A Easter Egg Hunt 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club	11 6:30P Elders	12 10:00A Adult Bible Study	13 6-7:30P Confirmation (lower LOFT) 7:00P Choir	14 MAUNDY THURSDAY 10:00A Prayer Shawl 7:00P Worship	15 GOOD FRIDAY Noon Worship 7:00P Worship Prayer vigil begins after worship	16 Prayer vigil 10A-noon confirmation (lower LOFT) No Saturday worship
17 EASTER SUNDAY 8:00A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Worship (sanctuary) 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club	18 [-----]	19 10:00A Adult Bible Study ----- Pastor -----	20 6:30P Governing Board in Nebraska*-----	21 OWLS 7:00P Video Series -----	22 -----]	23 10A-noon confirmation (lower LOFT) 5:30P Worship
24 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Bible Study 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club	25	26 10:00A Adult Bible Study	27 6-7:30P Confirmation (lower LOFT)	28 10:00A Prayer Shawl 7:00P Video Series	29	30 8:45A Sisters in Christ gathering 10A-noon confirmation (lower LOFT) 5:30P Worship