



CROSSlink

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

MAY 2023

FROM PASTOR'S DESK

"What Is The Church?"

Pastor Zac Patterson

No doubt you have heard the phrase, or one similar, "the Church isn't a building". The idea of this kind of phrase is to say that it's the people of God who make up the true Church, rather than the Church being a specific building. This leads to other statements such as, "I am the Church". These statements beg the question, what exactly is the Church?

First, let's look at the word itself. The word "Church" comes from the Greek word ἐκκλησία (pronounced – ekklésia). This word literally means "assembly" or "gathering". So, yes, on the face of this definition, it is true that the word for "Church" doesn't mean a building, but people. However, this definition also shows how the idea of one person being the Church is incorrect. You cannot gather by yourself; therefore, you cannot be the Church by yourself.

We see this with the description of the early Church in Acts 2. It says, "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common." The Church was indeed a "gathering", not just individual members. You could only "be the church" if you were together with others.

Our Lutheran Confessions are also helpful to this point. In the Augsburg Confession, Article 7, it says, "The Church is the congregation of saints, in which the Gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments are rightly administered." This article echoes what we see in Acts 2. The Church is made up of people, but these people are not in isolation. The Church is the people who are gathering around God's Word and Sacrament. While the Church is made up of people, there is a location to the Church, namely the place where they gather or congregate. When you gather together around God's Word and Sacrament, then you are truly being the Church.

This is the major problem with people who only watch church online. When you do that, you aren't gathering with your fellow believers, but instead are staying by yourself at home. Saying you are part of the Church while only watching online is like saying I was at the 2022 World Series because I watched it at home. If you're not gathering, then you technically aren't "being the Church". This, of course, doesn't apply to shut-ins who physically can't gather with others or people who usually attend church in person, but miss a week or two due to illness or something of the sort.

Yes, it is true that the Church isn't a building, but you can meet in one. Yes, the Church is made up of people, but you can't be the Church alone. To be the Church is to gather together with fellow Christians, hearing the Word of God and receiving the Lord's Supper together in person. To put it simply, in order to "be the Church", you must go to church.

JULIET'S BOOK CLUB

The JULIET'S Book Club meets the **first Monday of every month** at Panera Bread in Fox River Grove at 6:00pm. Please contact Kathy for more information.

BABY SHOWER!!!

Save the Date! We will be hosting a baby shower to welcome Baby Patterson on Saturday, May 13th, in the LOFT from 2:00-4:00 pm. **Everyone** is invited! **Please add your name to the Sign-Up Sheet so we can estimate attendance.** More details to follow. Light snacks and beverages will be served. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Donna or Mary Jane .

Emma is registered on Amazon - under Registry then add Emma and select Baby Registry. (Please make sure you select the Cary, IL address as there are others listed with the same name.)

New Membership Class

We will be starting up a new membership. This class is for new members, members who want a refresher on Luther's *Small Catechism*, or anyone who is interested in learning more about what we believe and confess here at Holy Cross. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Patterson (pastor@holycrosscary.org) and let him know what days and times work for you. We will try to pick a time when most people can attend.

First Communion Class

We will be starting up a First Communion class. This class is designed for families with children who are not in Confirmation yet. Whether your kid is already communing, wishes to receive Communion, or isn't quite there yet, this class is for you. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Patterson (pastor@holycrosscary.org) so he can schedule an information meeting.

LWML

DISASTER KITS will be assembled by women of Holy Cross who are going to the LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION (LWML) Convention in June. If you would like to contribute to this project, 16 of each of these items are needed:

Washcloths (needed)	Bathsize bar soap	Toothbrushes	Combs
Nail Clippers (needed)	Band-aids 1/2" or 3/4"	Small tissue pkts	
Small toothpaste			

Quilts, blankets and comforters of all sizes can be donated also. These GIFTS FROM THE HEART will be distributed in disaster areas by ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN through a grant from LWML. A collection box is located near the coat closet. Thank you very much!

LUTHERAN WOMEN from across the U.S. will meet in convention in Milwaukee Wisconsin June 21-25, 2023. In preparation, women of Holy Cross will be gathering items in April and May to take to the convention and pack into hygiene kits to be sent to disaster areas. Watch this Newsletter and weekend bulletins for more information. Consider attending the convention for one day or the entire time. You will benefit from this experience and see where MITE money is spent on missionary projects. Workers for the convention (men, women, and teens) are needed, too.

VBS DONATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED!

Be a "Stellar" donor and take a ticket from one of our rockets. Bring back the items and drop them in our donation bin no later than June 1. *Thank you to Deb for making the awesome rockets!!

CARDS AND CALLS MINISTRY

We have 10 volunteers who are working to reconnect with some of our Holy Cross Members. We have many more names. Would you help us build relationships and connections with our Holy Cross members? Call Elaine.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Romans 12: 6-8

We have different gifts, according to the Grace given to each of us. If your gift is serving, then serve.

Holy Cross has another HUGE need for assistance in the area of Information Technology! For many years we have taken a "band-aid" approach to purchasing and maintaining our computers, phone systems, copiers and other technology-related systems. To help solve this problem, we would like to create a NEW Information Technology Committee with the purpose of developing and maintaining a proactive plan for technology-related hardware and software integration and support. Recommendations relative to equipment purchases, maintenance programs and overall visioning of the program would fall in this area.

Our goal is to have a minimum of five (or more) Information Technology Committee members.

This represents a WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY for our members with gifts in this field to serve and to share Time and Talents. It is also a great chance to meet, work and have fellowship with, good people with common interests. We have a great need for help so..... please give this your prayerful consideration!

If you would like to learn more, please contact Ellen Gezella, Office Administrator at our church office (847)639-1702.

KANE COUNTY COUGARS TICKETS

KANE COUNTY COUGARS JUNE 21 AFTERNOON GAME tickets are now available. Plan to join us. See Pat Donahue for tickets! Only 20 tickets are reserved so don't miss out. This is sponsored by OWLS, but everyone is invited to join us.

EVENT OPPORTUNITY

"BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD, THE PEOPLE WHOM HE HAS CHOSEN AS HIS HERITAGE! THE LORD LOOKS DOWN FROM HEAVEN; HE SEES ALL THE CHILDREN OF MAN." Psalm 33:12-13. This is the theme of an exciting event coming June 22-25, sponsored by our Northern Illinois District and South Wisconsin District in Milwaukee.

Thousands of women, men and children invite you to join them for an inspiring opening worship service on Thursday evening and tour displays by scores of organizations and missions of our Synod and see how millions of dollars collected by saving small change are granted to fund missions at home and abroad.

All this is the National Lutheran Women in Mission biannual convention and everyone is invited to come for a day or the entire 4 day event. There is a walk to support the MITE fund, a golf outing

and more. Check out the NID/LWML website and see how you can join in the celebration of God's love for the people whom he has chosen as His heritage!

FISH CLUB

Starting up again in September, please join us- 3 to 8 years old- every Sunday from 9:35am - 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall! We're sure the kids will grow in their relationship with Jesus and meet a few new friends along the way. **Enjoy your Summer!!**

KIDS FOR CHRIST

Kids for Christ meets from 5-6:30pm. Dinner will be provided. KFC is for all kids grades 1-8. This includes Confirmation instruction for grades 7-8. Last class is May 18, 2023. We will start up again in the Fall.

OWLS - "Older, Wiser, Lutheran Seniors"

OWLS will meet on Thursday, May 4 at noon in the lower LOFT. Mary Jane Kopacek will host and provide a devotion and dessert. Everyone is invited to join us for an afternoon with friends. There are games to play and enjoy. Fellowship and conversation are lively. You may bring books and magazines you no longer need to trade or donate to Ablelight Thrift Shop in Crystal Lake which supports Bethesda Lutheran Home for the disabled.

OWLS are planning an outing two weeks later for a farm tour and dinner in DeKalb. Date, time and details will be posted on OWLS bulletin board and carpools will form to include everyone. The cost of the tour is \$10.

DINE TO DONATE

Every **Sunday**, at the Crystal Lake Texas Roadhouse, 10% of your food bill will be donated back to Holy Cross when you bring in your church bulletin, flyer, or mention our church name. Call ahead seating 815-356-7427!

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Our school is excited to offer "Fun Fridays" and other options to homeschool children in grade Kindergarten, First and Second Grade. Activities will include music, art, library, chapel, and a special study of the Revolutionary War.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!! Thank you to all who came out and supported our school during the "Raising Canes" fundraiser! Raising Cane's also donated cups and napkins to our Kids for Christ program. Hope you enjoyed your yummy chicken!

CARY GROVE FOOD PANTRY

The Cary Grove Food Pantry would like to thank everyone from Holy Cross who donated to the lent food drive to help fill the pantry shelves. In the month of April, the pantry served 167 families. The number of families is raising due to inflation and also the lowering of snap benefits. Your donations were greatly appreciated. Also, please consider donating to the Post Office food drive that is being held in May across the country. Thank you again.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Is anyone interested in gathering a group from Holy Cross to march in the Cary Memorial Day Parade? The parade lines up in our parking lot and heads down First Street to Veterans Park for the ceremony. We have a Holy Cross banner. Usually In the past we handed out candy and wear red, white, and blue, Holy Cross shirts if you have them. We could also hand out cards with our service hours and school information which I would be happy to make up. If interested in organizing, or walking in the parade, call/Email me at the office. Ellen: 847-639-1702 or egezella@holycrosscary.org

SAVE THESE DATES:

September 10 Church Picnic & Rally Day!!!

November 17 & 18 Vendor Fair !!!

The Ten Commandments Word Find

Fill in the blanks with the correct words. Then find the words!

1. Put God _____.
(first / second / last)
2. Worship _____ only.
(your teacher / a popester / God)
3. Use God's name with _____.
(hate / respect / jokes)
4. Remember God's _____.
(teeth / apple tree / Sabbath)
5. Respect your _____.
(dog / parents / bicycle)
6. Do not _____ other people.
(hurt / love / smile at)
7. Be _____ in marriage.
(angry / faithful / sad)
8. Do not _____.
(dance / eat / steal)
9. Do not _____.
(lie / sleep / shower)
10. Do not be _____ of others.
(envious / respectful / aware)



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“Ask rain from the Lord in the season of the spring rain, from the Lord who makes the storm clouds, and he will give them showers of rain, to everyone the vegetation in the field”.

Zechariah 10:1

“For behold , the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.”

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

“The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.”

Isaiah 35:1

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Lamentations 3:22-23

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!!



HOLY CROSS Invites Children to Stellar VBS: Shine Jesus' Light!

A summer kids' event called Stellar VBS will be hosted at **Holy Cross** from **June 19 to 23, 2023** from **5:00-7:30pm**. At Stellar, kids discover how they can shine Jesus' love and hope in everyday life! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, devour yummy dinner, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of Jesus' light, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Cosmic Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at **7:15**.

Kids at Stellar VBS will join a missions effort to provide Bibles for families in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Stellar is for kids ages 3 (potty trained) through rising 5th graders. The cost is \$35 per child and includes a T-shirt and dinner each night. **Ages 6th grade through adult are encouraged to volunteer.** To register your child or sign up to volunteer, use this link:

<https://vbspro.events/p/events/holycrosscaryvbs>. REGISTRATION OPENS ON MARCH 15, 2023.

**Volunteer to help one night or several, it's always a fun time being with kids learning and singing about God!
Join in the Fellowship!!!**

What's Happening This Month:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY 2023	1 6:00 pm Juliet's At FRG Panera	2	3	4 12:00pm OWLS 5-6:30pm K4C 6:45pm Compline Service	5	6 5:30pm Worship
7 8:30am Worship (Sanct) 9:45am Bible Study 10:45am Worship (LOFT)	8	9 6:30pm Elder's 7:00pm Cultured Purls	10 7:00pm Choir	11 10:00pm Prayer Shawl 5-6:30pm K4C 6:45pm Compline Service	12	13 2-4:00pm Patterson's Baby Shower (LOFT) 7:00pm Taize
14 8:30am Worship (Sanct) 9:45am Bible Study 10:45am Worship (LOFT) ♥ Mother's Day	15	16 6:30pm Gov. Board	17 7:00pm Choir	18 12:00pm OWLS Farm tour & dinner 5-6:30pm K4C (Last class) 7:00pm Ascension Day Service	19	20 5:30pm Worship
21 8:30am Worship (Sanct) 9:45am Bible Study 10:45am Worship (LOFT)	22	23	24 7:00pm Choir	25 10:00am Prayer Shawl @ Panera	26	27 5:30 pm Worship
28 8:30am Worship (Sanct) 9:45am Bible Study 10:45am Worship (LOFT)	29 Memorial Day -Parade- Starts in Holy Cross Parking Lot Office Closed	30	31 6:00pm VBS Training 7:00pm Choir			