



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)

July 2021

From Pastor Meyer's Desk

"But now thus says the LORD, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, **for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name.** ²When you pass through the waters, **I will be with you;** and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. **Isaiah 43:1-3**

We are thankful to God that we live in a country where we are free to worship the Lord our God who has called us by name into His family of grace.

Granted, there are challenges to our freedom to worship and live as faithful Christians without restrictions. Much is arrayed in battle against us:

1. College professors who mock our faith
2. Media and entertainment people who belittle our views of faith and trust in God and His Word
3. Cultural attitudes that delegate our Christian faith and practice to being something less important than sports, recreation, work, or about anything else in life
4. And then let us not forget the terrorists who target Christians for no other reason than being Christian.

In the face of these challenges, we will not and must not forget that we have much to be thankful for. This July 4th weekend, and every time we worship, live and express our Christian faith and hope, and share the love of Jesus..... we should and must be thankful to God and use our freedoms to the praise and glory of God!

He Knows Our Name

One of the things precious about our baptism is that God called us by name into His family of grace, assuring us that His love and grace is also for each of us. Even more reassuring is that God does not forget us, who we are or how precious we are to Him.

I have been with people who have experienced the heartache of being 'forgotten' by a loved one because of injury or a sickness like Alzheimer's. I remember a loving husband who was no longer recognized by his wife whom he had so lovingly cared for during their long life as husband and wife. Once, when I was visiting with them to bring communion, she leaned over to say to me, pointing to her husband, "Who is that man?" And he just kept loving her and caring for her. Then the day came when I was with them both as she neared death, and as her husband and I were praying the Lord's Prayer, Grace went home to be with Jesus.

Our Lord and Savior knows us, redeemed us, and promises to be with us always. Even when we go through those difficult times, He promises that His grace and strength will see us through.

So, we keep trusting in Him, leaning on Him, and following where He leads us. Yes, some of our fellow Christians may forget our names, even a pastor, even a dear and close relative..... but Jesus will never forget us!

Remember Jesus this next weekend, even if it has been a long time since you have been in church. He will welcome you! Remember Jesus when you or your family is going through a tough time, He will help you! Remember Jesus as you live each day in His grace and the day will come when He welcomes you home!

Till that day, may God keep us all in His grace!

Your pastor and fellow servant in Christ Jesus, Pastor Meyer

Interim Task Force Update

There has been some confusion as to what the Interim Task Force actually is. To clear up some misunderstandings I will start by explaining it is not the Call Committee. The main goal of the Task Force is to assist the actual Call Committee with the call process. We have been collecting a lot of information in order to create an accurate profile of Holy Cross Church. The process started at the cottage group meetings hosted by Pastor Meyer. All congregation members were invited to attend one of these meetings. At the meeting members were asked four questions and their responses were all recorded. The four questions were: What are we doing well at Holy Cross? What are we not doing very well, or not at all? What should the main functions of our church be? What should our top priorities be moving forward? Once all this information was collected, the committee sorted, combined, and organized this information into a workable form.

The committee then contacted the Northern Illinois District Office of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod to create a demographic report of Cary and the surrounding area. This is one of the many services they will do for congregations for free. Sue Green from the District Office then came to Holy Cross to present this report. Lots of great information was shared. The high point of the evening was Sue explaining how we could use this information moving forward in our ministries and in the call process.

The final goal of the committee is to create a report with all of the information we have compiled. Once this report is completed, we will share it with the Governance Board, the Elders, the Call Committee and the congregation. Our hope is that this will assist the Call Committee and the District Office throughout the call process and a list of call candidates that are a good fit for Holy Cross will be developed. We hope to finish up our work by the end of July so the Call Committee can begin their important work.

If you have any questions regarding the Task Force Committee contact Mike Dunker, committee chairperson. Other members of the committee are: Sue Anderson, Steve Dority, Katie Shaykin, Melody Stanko and Jim Urbates. Feel free to contact them also.

Ministry Action Council (MAC)

Looking ahead, for those interested in coordinating, doing and planning current and new ministries here at Holy Cross, mark your calendar for Tuesday, July 20, 6:00-7:30 PM. Pastor is planning for this to be the first meeting of MAC. We are encouraging at least one person from each ministry team of our church to attend and also inviting and welcoming members and friends of Holy Cross who want to be part of a ministry effort. You do NOT need an invitation to attend. We plan to meet in the church fellowship hall. If you have any questions about this, feel free to call the church office and Denise can fill you in on some of the details. [Eventually, Pastor plans to receive a regular short report and update from each of our ministries which will be shared with the MAC. This report will include what we have done in the past month, what we are planning as we look ahead, and any challenges, needed resources, etc. that might be hindering our efforts. These reports, along with notes from the MAC meeting, will be summarized by the pastor (or others) and put together in a regular report to the Governing Board and the congregation.] Pastor Meyer is especially interested in hearing from those who have a passion about several ministries that we want to expand or restart: IT, Youth Ministries, Outreach Ministries are a few that quickly come to mind.

This may seem a bit ambitious, and there are still a few details to be worked out, but we believe this is a necessary step to address our long habit of talking about ministry needs for a long time, 'somebody should do something about this....', but often not seeing anything happen. MAC is where the 'rubber meets the road' and we expect to see ministry needs addressed and ministry ideas get traction and put into action!

Member Care Ministry

Our Head Elder, Pat Donahue, is gathering names at the close of each of our weekend services of people who would be interested in hearing more about a Care Ministry that we are starting/expanding through which we hope to expand contact with more, if not all, of our members on a regular basis. We especially encourage folks who have training and/or experience in telephone ministry, Christ Care, Counseling, Listening and who have a caring heart and a compassion for fellow human beings. If you have any questions, talk with Pat.

OWLS Happenings

OWLS will meet on Thursday, July 15 at noon at Lions Park in Fox River Grove. We will share a potluck lunch and enjoy table games and conversation with friends. Please join us and bring a small dish to share. You can indicate on the OWLS bulletin board what you plan to bring for the potluck lunch.

Report from the LWML Convention

The Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) met in convention at Lexington, Kentucky June 24-28 to conduct the business of the organization, worship, share fellowship, volunteer time for eight different ministries, golf, raise funds through a MITES walk, gather gifts from the hearts of the church members at home and enjoy Bible study time together. A total of 2,792 women and men gathered at Rupp Arena, a newly-built facility, at the first convention in that city in 16 months. The opening service started with a Pastoral procession of more than 60 Pastors. It took 30 minutes for the distribution of Holy Communion for the assembled congregation.

The business meetings were attended by 518 delegates and voting members who amended by-laws, adopted a budget for the biennium, elected officers and Pastoral staff and approved grants to mission. There were 64 applications for grants and 34 were approved to be brought forward for consideration. Grants to 28 missions were approved. Missions in foreign lands and here at home will share in \$2,221,176 in MITES that have been collected for the past two years. A sampling of recipients are the Deaconess Ministry at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Christian children's books sent to missions in Africa, Gospel Outreach to Women and Children in Mongolia, funds to build a maternity home in Carpentersville, Illinois, day care and feeding for hundreds of children in Peru, a re-fitted school bus to expand a medical mission in Ethiopia and Sierra Leone, reaching the homebound via TV in the US through Worship ANEW, and many more. A full list is posted on the LWML bulletin board. You will be amazed!

Whenever you drop your pennies and other small change into the MITE boxes, please stop to think that your MITES are going on a trip around the world and with them God's Word is being spread and lives are being changed.

There was a golf outing during the convention that raised over \$23,000. A Walk for Mites had 1,100 participants who brought pledges of over \$100,000 from their home congregations. The large number of walk participants also slowed traffic in downtown Lexington on Saturday afternoon. Funds are still coming in, so the total won't be known for a while yet.

Gifts from the Heart that were collected in our churches yielded 3,234 items for babies, more than 6,000 pairs of eyeglasses for MOST ministries, gift cards of approximately \$37,000 to be used at the food banks associated with our Ft. Wayne, IN, and St. Louis, MO seminaries and 67 pints of blood donated to the Red Cross.

In 2023, the 40th biennial convention of LWML will be held in Milwaukee, WI and the hosts districts will be Northern Illinois (our district), Southern Wisconsin and Central Wisconsin. LWML will continue working, collecting MITES and preparing to carry on the mission work of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Consider making the trip to Milwaukee to enjoy a wonderful time with fellow-believers in 2023. You will be amazed!

August Blood Drive

This is early notice to save the date for the next Blood Drive at Holy Cross on August 16.

Peace—Love—Donate----Summer is the perfect time to do what we love including saving lives through the gift of Blood Donation!! Our community continues to rely on blood donations. Your gift is used to help people who need it most!! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic VERSITI team members follow the CDC, FDA and leadership guidelines to keep donating safe. Please feel free to visit the website for updated information regarding safety - <https://www.versiti.org/home/coronavirus-information>. Watch the weekly News and Notes for more information starting mid-July. Contact Barb Molzer (home 847-639-8024 or cell 630-222-9668) with any questions. Thank you in advance to all dedicated donors.

July 2021

	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 OWLS	2	3 5:30P Worship
4 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	5 Office closed	6	7	8 10:00A Prayer Shawl	9	10 5:30P Worship 7:00P Taizé Service
11 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	12 6:30P Elders	13	14	15 OWLS	16	17 5:30P Worship
18 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	19 6:30P Governing Board	20 6:00P Ministry Action Council	21	22 10:00A Prayer Shawl 7:00P Confirmation	23	24 5:30P Worship
25 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	26	27	28	29	30	31 5:30P Worship