



CROSSlink

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

August 2021

From Pastor Meyer's Desk

"Pray Without Ceasing" 1 Thessalonians 5:17

"You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve." Matthew 4:10

I spent a few days this past week traveling with my wife, Sue, and our son, Tim into Michigan and then Milwaukee. We saw several good friends, but Sue and I especially had some special time with our son!

In a few days he heads back to Taiwan where he is a teacher (teaching English and sharing the Gospel) with one of our church ministries but he will also be a student, studying Mandarin. As his parents, we are proud of the work he does to the glory of God, but we also can't help but be concerned about the political tensions of the area between China and nearly every one of their neighbors. Yes, our son and all the good people of Taiwan (as well as all the people of the surrounding area) are continually in our prayers!

I think of the hymn

What a Friend We Have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear

All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

I know I sometimes try to bear (all by myself) burdens that God doesn't intend for me to carry alone, if at all. I realized I had again done this recently. I found myself acting and thinking like I had to somehow, personally, fix and repair many of the issues that I saw troubling some of the good people of Holy Cross. I had to tell myself, "You silly Glenn Meyer – just who do you think you are?"

The fact is, we can't do a thing by ourselves – but we often think and act as if we can..... silly us! Our joy is knowing that in Jesus, we are NOT alone. God is with us, and by His grace and power, trusting in Him and following Him, we can be part of great things being accomplished. This happens as we trust in God and His Word, as we listen to God's Word and listen to one another as God's peoples. Great things can happen, as we, as God's people, work together, each doing the part that God has given us to contribute!

One part that is given to us all is the privilege of prayer! I urge you to make use of that gift, given to us all by God!

I implore you to join me in daily turning to God in prayer. As the Call Committee is now formed and beginning their work, we will soon be gathering names of pastoral candidates, as we get closer to calling our next pastor. The Call Committee needs your prayers and support, don't let them down! Don't let them be allowed to think that they must somehow accomplish their important work all by themselves. Let them know you are praying for them. (You will find their names later in this newsletter!) Keep them, and our next pastor and his family, in your prayers, each and every day! Make use of this privilege of prayer!

Don't forget to do all you can to build up and encourage one another. That is part of what we are called to do as brothers and sisters in Christ! One way we can do this is in our worship and fellowship together! Come to church! Let us, together, worship the Lord our God! Visit with your fellow members and friends of Holy Cross! Come to the Church Picnic!

Keep the faith! Keep leaning on Jesus!

Your interim pastor and forever brother in Christ, Pastor Glenn Meyer

Interim Task Force

At our last Voters' Meeting, we heard the report from the Interim Task Force and their report was accepted with a unanimous vote. This concludes the work of the Interim Task Force – their work is received with our thanks and praise! (Their written report is included later in this Newsletter.)

Call Committee

Soon after the Voters' Meeting and the acceptance of the report of the Interim Task Force, the Elders and Governing Board met to put together our Call Committee (working from names of people who were nominated by members of the church for this committee). The Call Committee is as follows: **Steve Dority; Mike Dunker; Mike Kawasaki; Diane Perrone; Katie Shaykin; Gary Rintz; and Jim Urbates.** They will begin their work immediately. They will be sending material and reports to the district office. They will be quickly preparing for a Pre-Call Meeting with our District President.

Some of the qualifications and skills that we looked for in the members of this committee are as follows:

- ***Regular attendance at church, in person or via live-streaming of any of our services***
- ***Able to maintain the necessary confidences of the work of the committee (there will be certain things that are shared that they will not be at liberty to share with others).KNOW THAT THE CALL COMMITTEE WILL MAKE REPORTS EACH WEEK – EVEN IF THE REPORT IS ‘Nothing new to report – please keep us in your prayers’***
Trust in the Lord - Committed to seeing us arrive at the person God has in mind for us, the right pastor for this time and place!
- ***Comfortable and at peace with our mission objectives (note the Interim Task Force Report)***
- ***Submission to God's will and not adamant about fulfilling 'my will'***
- ***Person of Prayer***
- ***Good Listener***
- ***Able to be part of a team building effort, speaking the truth in love, but accepting of the part each member of the team brings to the table as together we seek God's will be done***
- ***Able to be part of a work effort that may take a lot of work and time all the way up to when we have a pastor accept our call. In other words, this could be a long commitment (We pray it will go quickly – but this is in God's time, not ours!)***

Pre-call Meeting with District President Dr. Allan Buss – August 18 at 6:30

Dr. Rev. Allan Buss is scheduled to meet with us all in the church sanctuary on Wednesday, August 18 at 6:30PM. He will specifically address the Call Committee, Elders and Governing Board but all members and friends of Holy Cross are welcome and urged to attend!

He will walk us through some of the things we need to remember as we prepare to call a pastor. He will review with us what we have shared with him concerning what we are looking for and feel we need in gifts, qualities, experiences, etc. in our next pastor. He will review our mission goals and ministry targets with us. He will answer our questions and he will likely ask us some questions. A big part of what our discussion will center around is our report from the Interim Task Force and any other materials our call committee forwards to him. At the close of this meeting, if we are in agreement that we at Holy Cross and the District office appear to be on the same page in what we believe to be God's purpose for Holy Cross going forward, we will begin gathering names of possible pastoral candidates for our call.

July 25 Voters' Meeting Summary

Thank you to all who attended the Voters' Meeting on July 25. We had 52 attendees! It was nice to see everyone. We had great pizza, salad, desserts and a nice selection of sodas. There was conversation, laughter, discussion and... we had great questions! Due to the tie vote of 26 to 26, we will need to have another Voters' Meeting.

Stained Glass Windows Recap

Mel Molzer and Steve Olson spoke with Eric, president of Cathedral Crafts (window company). Mel and Steve received clear explanation of the window options and costs. The numbers are included in this newsletter.

A Voters' Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 22 at 9:45 AM in the church sanctuary. This meeting should only take 15 minutes since the options are in print for members to read prior to the meeting. Also, there is time in the next few weeks for members to visit the library and nursery both inside and outside in order to visualize the three options. The rooms have a peaceful atmosphere for reflection and perhaps decision making.

Interim Task Force Presentation

1. Following the vote there was a presentation from the Interim Task Force led by Mike Dunker. There are extra copies of this final report in the Narthex if anyone would like one.
2. A demographic study of Cary and Fox River Grove compiled by Sue Green of the Northern Illinois District Office was conducted. This study indicated that population will change in the next 10 years. An increase in 0 to 4 year olds, young adults and senior citizens was projected.
3. This demographic study will be part of the information provided to Pastoral candidates during the call process.
4. The Interim Task Force determined top priority ministries at Holy Cross. These categories include Youth Ministries, Family Ministries, Young Adults, Senior Ministries, and Community Outreach.
5. The Interim Task Force also identified top opportunities and challenges facing Holy Cross. Opportunities include Holy Cross financial stability, access to wonderful facilities, great location in the community, and a strong core of church leaders. Challenges identified consisted of volunteer burnout and lack of young families.
6. The Interim Task Force presentation was unanimously accepted by the congregation. The church is now moving to form the Call Committee in the next few weeks.

Please mark your calendars for August 22 at 9:45 for a brief Voters' Meeting! Thanks to all who helped with the meeting, lunch, and clean-up. Thanks to Pastor Meyer for being our Pastor and Shepherd!

Dori Chianakas, Governing Board Chair

Sanctuary Stained Glass Window Repair Update

PROPOSALS FOR STAIN GLASS WINDOW - HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

OPTION #1

\$157,139.00 Restore all stained-glass windows that we presently have. There would be NO stained-glass windows available for the altar area. Altar windows would be new plain glass.

OPTION #2

\$157,139.00 Restore all stained-glass windows that we presently have and using eight (8) restored windows from the Nursery/Library to be installed at the sides of the altar. Those eight (8) windows in the Nursery/Library will then be replaced with plain glass only. The remaining fifteen (15) windows in the Nursery/Library would be restored stained glass. There are a total of 23 windows in the Nursery/Library.

OPTION #3

\$131,539.00 Install plain glass only in the twenty-three (23) windows of the Nursery/Library. All the windows in sanctuary would be restored stained glass. Eight (8) of the windows from the Nursery/Library would be restored and installed at the sides of the altar. This would leave fifteen (15) stained glass windows from the Nursery/Library that would not be restored or used and would be the property of HCLC.

*All options include six (6) new windows in the lower-level fellowship hall. *Prices include a contingency of \$5,000.00 for incidental expenses (dumpster/unforeseeable costs)

Ministry Action Council (MAC)

We had our first monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 18. The meeting went well with seven in attendance. This will be a regular monthly meeting to coordinate and plan continuing and new ministries among us. This group will be made up of the director/chair/rep of each current and planned ministry team/board of our congregation. (No invitations were sent out for our first meeting. Pastor Meyer will send out some invitations as we go forward – if interested, talk with Pastor!) The next meeting is scheduled for August 17 from 6:00–7:00 PM in the Conference Room.

We are currently in the process of putting together ministry teams for:

- Youth Group Ministry
- Community Involvement & Outreach
- Mission Trips & Support
- IT (recording of services, web page, internet, audio/visual resources, etc.)

If interested, or have another needed ministry in mind, please share your name with the church office or Pastor Meyer. This was a huge, needed step for us, and I believe all who were present went away greatly encouraged that this will help us move forward in ministry in powerful ways, by the grace and power of God. Our desire is to empower one another, in coordinated and supportive ways to do (and not just talk about) the work and purpose that God has given to us!

OWLS Happenings

OWLS are planning to meet on August 19 at a picnic grove in the area. Brad Miller will pick the place and host the meeting. Sign-up sheets for OWLS events are posted on the bulletin board by the coat room.

Church Picnic

The annual CHURCH PICNIC WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 29 STARTING AT NOON. Everyone is invited to come out onto the lawn and enjoy fun and fellowship. Bring your lawn chairs, please.

Kate's Kritters Mobile Petting Zoo will be here from noon until 2:00 PM. Bring your children and grandchildren and tell your friends and neighbors. The Petting Zoo is free of charge courtesy of a THRIVENT ACTION TEAM grant.

OWLS will provide cold drinks, chicken and desserts. You are welcome to sign up at the church entry to bring a salad or side dish to share.

August Blood Drive

Our Human Care Ministry is sponsoring a blood drive for the Versiti Blood Centers on August 16 from 3:30-7:30 PM at Holy Cross. There is a shortage of blood due to the COVID outbreak. The Blood Center is short of the 600 donations needed every week to cover the 70+ area hospitals. Please consider donating and inviting a family member or friend to join you. By donating just one pint of blood you will help as many as three patients. GIVE A FREE GIFT OF BLOOD so that another may live and regain his/her health. GIVE FROM THE HEART!! You may call Barb Molzer at H-847-639-8024 or C-630-222-9668 with any questions. Watch the News & Notes for more information. Donors can schedule a donation time on line at www.Versiti.org. To honor and respect all donors who schedule a donation time, they will be taken ahead of walk-in donors. We have ALWAYS VALUED our LOYAL Walk-in Donors and hope you will continue to donate with a convenient scheduled time. All donor support is greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you at the Drive on August 16 between 3:30 and 7:30 PM! All donors will be screened prior to donating. Remember, blood can't be manufactured so we all must

continue to be regular blood donors. Please encourage someone to be a NEW DONOR with you. Mark your calendar to be A BEACON OF HOPE on August 16!!

When you give blood you give another birthday, another anniversary, another day at the beach, another night under the stars, another talk with a friend, another laugh, another hug, and another chance!!!

Interim Task Force Final Report

Committee Members: Mike Dunker-Chairperson, Sue Anderson, Steve Dority, Katie Shaykin, Melody Stanko, Jim Urbates

There is no more critical time in the life of a congregation than when it faces going from one Pastor to another. This change can either lead the congregation toward health or toward dysfunction. Change will happen. This change can be exciting and invigorating. We can learn new things about ourselves, the congregation, and the community. We must trust in the Lord not the present or future Pastor. We can compare this challenge with going on a long vacation. We know the destination. There are different ways to get there. It takes lots of planning. How we travel together will make a big difference how we feel when we get there and we want to arrive in one piece. (This is paraphrased from the book A Change of Pastors by Loren E. Mead.)

The ultimate goal of the Task Force is to aid the congregation and the eventual call committee in the process of calling a new Pastor. This document has been created to be a profile of our congregation. We have collected much data and many thoughts and ideas from congregation members, from the LCMS District office and other resources. We want the congregation and the call committee to become clearer about the challenges that lie ahead and what kind of leadership is needed.

This information gathering began in the Cottage Group meetings organized by Pastor Meyer. All members of the congregation were invited to attend. Different aspects of the church were examined. We discussed past history of the church, good and bad. We looked at what God says about the main duties of his people, the Church. We talked about what people felt were our strengths and our weaknesses and discussed what they felt were our top priorities moving forward.

In dealing with the past history of Holy Cross we decided not to dwell much on the negatives. We know the last call process had challenges. By doing additional prep work on the front end for this call process, we are hoping to have a smooth and transparent call process for this round. We need to be ready to look past the past and "lay the ghosts to rest." (Mead). We cannot let history block our path but give us a strong foundation for the future. As a congregation looks back on their story, a chapter ends when one Pastor leaves and another starts when a new Pastor arrives. In between much can and must be done in service and ministry by God's people. Ministry must not stop. We hope to help make that new chapter an exciting and invigorating one. We looked at our Vision Statement and our Mission Statement to make sure they still accurately reflected our goals. We feel they do. Our Vision Statement is: "We, Holy Cross, seek to be an active, evangelical Lutheran Church where the spiritual needs of members and the community are fulfilled." Our Mission Statement reads: "Our mission is to inspire the congregation and community through God's Word, to serve the needs of our brothers and sisters and to grow our faith and our love in Jesus." We feel both of these are appropriate as we move forward and are addressed in some of the topics of this report.

Moving forward we want to keep our mission and vision alive. With the call of Pastor Meyer as our Intentional Interim Pastor, we began the process of moving forward to achieve this goal. According to feedback received at the cottage group meetings, Holy Cross is strongly rooted in a Christ-centered, biblical focus. We asked the groups what, based on God's Word, they felt God's church should be doing. This is what we gathered: Sharing Christ and His word, outreach, praying for one another, loving one another, working as a family, working on our own faith, fellowship, leadership development, being active in the community, and partaking of the Sacraments. Throughout the entire call process we need to keep all of these in mind. It will certainly help us through any rough spots.

The second area the cottage groups addressed was what people thought Holy Cross was doing well. By combining some ideas we were able to come up with the following list: Music ministry, finances, stewardship, preschool (when it is in session), faithfulness to God's Word, welcoming, sense of family, fellowship, church administration, the LOFT, and worship choices. We also were able to gather a list of activities that were available to our members before COVID and we hope come back once we get through the pandemic, some already have: OWLS, Bible classes, prayer shawl, VBS, human care, golf ministry, Taize service, blood drives, church picnic, and other fellowship opportunities.

Probably the most difficult section to get through was the question: What are we doing poorly and need to improve on, or what are we not doing at all? Here is condensed list: Communication, transparency, outreach, visibility in community, possible ministry and service opportunities with the high school across the street, youth ministry for all ages, mission support, technology shortcomings, working with people not attending church, weekday worship opportunities for busy families, nursery, Sunday school, using resources available through the Synod, pictorial directory, follow-up with LOFT users and preschool families, leadership training, new members, coordination/cooperation with other churches (Cary, regional, LCMS), and having a positive/optimistic outlook. This list was quite extensive. We will address the top few areas people felt should be our priorities in another section of our report.

The final question that was posed to the Cottage groups was: What should be the top/key ministries of our church going forward. To narrow this down to a manageable list proved challenging. These are the ideas we arrived at: Finding a good fit in our next Pastor, dealing with the internal conflict caused by previous call process, Christian education for all ages and demographics, including groups like preschool, children, youth, family, singles, Hispanics, elderly, parents, virtual, etc. We also identified the need for more paid staff/volunteer coordinator, outreach within the community, national and worldwide mission involvement and support, fellowship, taking advantage of our members' strengths, leadership training, and stewardship. This is a fairly extensive list. Our hope is that by sharing this with our members and with prospective Pastors they can have a clearer picture of where Holy Cross would like to head. We did try to summarize these ideas into three key areas. These areas being:

- 1) Need for increased communication and transparency. There is a general consensus that communication from church leadership and communication on formal processes could benefit from increased communication and transparency to the congregation. Some corrective steps have already been taken. Weekly updates will be given by the governing board. The treasurer and Pastor will both provide updates through the bulletin and newsletter.
- 2) Desire to increase membership and better serve families. Weekly church attendance is down, due in no small part to COVID. New membership has become fairly stagnant. We need to do a better job of attracting new members as well as reconnecting with some of the members who have not returned to worship. Several things have been done to turn this trend around. Online streaming is available for the traditional service. Facebook live streaming is available for the contemporary service. Kids for Christ youth program has begun again with an encouraging turnout. Research is being done for opportunities to expand the preschool program with possible daycare, with meetings underway for a potential partnership with a local Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. Discussion has started about a weekday church service to accommodate families who are extremely busy with weekend activities.
- 3) Serve as a community steward and improve outreach efforts. We need to identify areas of need, especially in our community to service and minister to the unchurched as well as our own members. We need to leverage our location close to the high school to serve and recruit the teenage population. Other populations were mentioned earlier in this report. A major step in these areas is the Ministry Action Committee (MAC) being put together by Pastor Meyer and others that will be able to address these areas as well as other areas that may fall between the gaps. MAC will be made up of representatives from various active ministries in our congregation and others who want to be part of needed new ministries. Much work is still needed in this area.

As part of our information gathering mission, we contacted the Northern Illinois District Office of the LCMS. Sue Green who is in charge of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) was able to put together a demographic report for Cary and the surrounding area. She then came out to Holy Cross and did a wonderful presentation on the data and especially beneficial was the suggestions on how to use this data as we prepare to call a new Pastor. Several of the demographic trends were especially interesting. Here are some statistics gleaned from the report. The population of Cary is projected to grow by over 20% from 2020 to 2030. The three age ranges that are expected to show the most growth are 0-4, 25-34, and 65 and older. This can help us as we plan for some of our ministries in the future. Surprisingly, the racial breakdown of the population will stay pretty much the same. Knowing how these trends will affect us, Sue gave us the following suggestions regarding our religious and community outreach/service programs:

- 1) Family Support and intervention services
 - a. Family oriented activities
 - b. Crisis support groups
 - c. Marriage enrichment
- 2) Community involvement/Advocacy programs
 - a. Opportunities for volunteering in the community
- 3) Religious/Spiritual programs
 - a. Warm and friendly encounters
 - b. The quality of sermons

Using all of the information we gathered, the committee was charged with determining what the top priorities should be as far as our ministries at Holy Cross are concerned. It was a challenging job to narrow it down to just a few. Here they are:

- 1) Youth Ministries- ages 3-18
 - a. Programs already in place
 - i. Kids for Christ
 - ii. Preschool
 - iii. Contemporary service
 - iv. Confirmation class
 - b. Suggestions
 - i. VBS (restart)
 - ii. Sunday school (restart)
 - iii. High school group
 - iv. More interaction with Cary-Grove High School
 - v. More social opportunities for kids of all ages
 - vi. Crisis support groups
 - vii. Better use of the LOFT as well as more follow-up when new members attend any service
- 2) Family ministries- especially young families
 - a. Programs already in place
 - i. Contemporary service
 - ii. Church picnic
 - b. Suggestions
 - i. Church nursery
 - ii. Marriage enrichment programs
 - iii. Social activities for families
 - iv. Weekday church service, education and fellowship opportunities

- v. Crisis support groups
 - vi. Increased technology opportunities
 - vii. More social opportunities
 - viii. Pictorial directory
- 3) Senior ministries
- a. Programs already in place
 - i. OWLS
 - ii. Prayer shawl
 - iii. Golf ministry
 - iv. Social opportunities
 - v. Bible study
 - b. Suggestions
 - i. More outreach, especially to homebound
 - ii. More social opportunities
- 4) Outreach
- a. Programs already in place
 - i. Human care committee
 - ii. Blood drive
 - iii. Food pantry
 - iv. CPR training
 - v. Christmas tree giveaway
 - b. Suggestions
 - i. Become chamber of commerce member
 - ii. Coordinate activities with nearby churches
 - iii. Coordinate activities with other Lutheran churches in the surrounding area
 - iv. Become actively involved with CGHS (nearby High School)
 - v. Be visible at community activities
 - vi. Leadership training
 - vii. Support of missions through LCMS
 - viii. Activities at Holy Cross for community

This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list, just some suggestions.

We also decided to list a few of the top opportunities and challenges that Holy Cross faces going forward. By putting these down on paper helps to give prospective Pastors a capsulated view of our current situation and the ministry opportunities before us.

Opportunities:

- 1) Financially stable
- 2) Fabulous facility
- 3) Great location in community
- 4) Strong core of church leaders

Challenges:

- 1) Burnout of volunteers
- 2) Lack of young families to attract more families
- 3) History of poor communication and follow-through

The Task Force Committee is proposing the following timeline:

NOW: All continue to pray about our current work, our call process, and our future resident Pastor and his family.

July 8- Completion of Task Force Committee Report

July 19- Share report and thoughts on choosing call committee with Governing Board with Elders and Governing Board

Mid July- Governing Board and Elders meet to start forming call committee recommendations

July 25- Share Task Force report with congregation

July 25- Governing Board and Elders share recommendations for call committee with congregation

July 26- Share report with District President

Early August- Call Committee begins their work leading up to a Pre-Call meeting and receiving a list of candidates from the District Office.

Late August- Pre-Call meeting of the District President with entire congregation urged to attend

August 2021

	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	2 6:30P Elders	3	4	5 OWLS to Union	6	7 5:30P Worship
8 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	9	10	11	12 10:00A Prayer Shawl	13	14 5:30P Worship
15 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	16 6:30P Governing Board	17 6:00P Ministry Action Council	18 6:30P Pre-call meeting with President Buss (sanctuary)	19 OWLS 7:00P Confirmation	20	21 5:30P Worship 7:00P Taizé Service
22 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Voters' Meeting 10:00A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	23	24	25	26 10:00A Prayer Shawl	27	28 5:30P Worship
29 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT) Noon Church Picnic	30	31				