



CROSSlink

2107 3 Oaks Rd, Cary, IL 60013
847.639.1702 Church Office

260.804.3154 Pastor Patterson
847.639.6533 School Office
www.HolyCrossCary.org

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

August 2023

FROM PASTOR'S DESK

"How do we grow the church?"

Pastor Zac Patterson

I was recently attending a social gathering and at some point in the conversation, the topic of discussion switched to the Church. Many churches around the country are dwindling in membership and the question was asked, "how do we grow the church"? I gave my typical answer of trusting in God's faithfulness and being faithful to Him, but that isn't always satisfactory for people. They're often looking for something specific they, or usually others, can do to grow the church. After having some time to reflect on that question, I've landed on two seemingly obvious answers, yet things people are often hesitant to do: go to church every weekend and tithe 10% of your income to the church.

First, church attendance. I don't know how many conversations I've had with people where they complain about the shrinking church, yet they themselves only attend church maybe a handful of times a year. I talked about this in last month's Crosslink article on the Church, but to be the Church is to gather together. There are so many blessings to gathering together. You get to be around other believers in Christ, being encouraged by their faith and encouraging them in the faith as well. It creates a community of people that is centered around that which truly matters most: Christ.

Practically speaking, when people walk into a full church, it makes it more likely for people to see the church as healthy, which is even harder to do when we split our average 110 attendees into three services over two days. Think of that feeling you have when you walk into church on Easter Sunday and the seats are filled up. It also makes it easier for people to hear and participate, hearing the crowd of people speaking and singing together. And, above all of this, attending church brings you God's wonderful gifts of Word and Sacrament, the things which bring you forgiveness, life, and salvation. This attendance should also include participating in Bible Classes, church events, and the general life of the church. If you're not going to church regularly, how can you expect others to go?

Second, tithing. Tithing is a topic that pastors don't really like to speak about. But Jesus talked a lot about money in His earthly ministry, so we shouldn't be afraid to address the topic. For starters, a "tithe" is an amount of money that one gives from their income back to God to help support the work of the Church. How much should one give? 10% is the usual number that is suggested. This number is rooted in Old Testament practice (see Genesis 14:20, Genesis 28:20-22, Leviticus 27:30-33, etc.). However, Scripture also says that we shouldn't make a law out of how much one gives, as St. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

We must, however, be wary of using these words from St. Paul to suggest that as long as I'm happy about it, I can give as little as I like. Look at the example of the early church in Acts 2:45, "And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need," and in Acts 4:34-35, "There was not a needy person among them, for as many as

were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the Apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need." When someone says that they aren't happy about tithing 10% of their income, is the problem with the percentage or with the attitude? Remember that all we have comes from God, so it should be a little thing to give back ONLY 10%. If everyone were to tithe 10% of their income, think of how much more the church could do? There would be money for more outreach, support for our school, and people could dedicate their time to mission and evangelism rather than trying to figure out how to keep the church up and running. As with attending church, if you're not giving 10% of your income, how can you expect others to give that much?

Imagine a church where we all worship together, sit down and study God's Word together, and engage in genuine fellowship together on a regular basis. Imagine a church where people give so generously that we never have to worry about how to keep the lights on, but rather about how we can share the Gospel with those around us. I firmly believe that this can be a reality here at Holy Cross and these are the first steps toward that goal.

SPECIAL NOTE:

There will **NOT** be a worship service on Saturday, August 5 at 5:30pm. Pastor Sward will be here for both services on Sunday, August 6.

In case of a Spiritual Emergency while Pastor Patterson is on vacation (7/25-8/8), Please contact Pastor Kyle Richardson at C:317-642-6522 or W: 847-526-7614.

JULIET'S BOOK CLUB

JULIET'S Book Club will meet at Panera Bread in Fox River Grove at 6:00pm. Currently reading a new book titled "Love Stories of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Brehm. Please contact Kathy for more information.

WELCOME

We welcome Cheryl as she has accepted the position of Financial Administrator/Bookkeeper here at Holy Cross. She comes to us highly qualified and eager to help! Please welcome her when you see her on Sunday.

CARDS, NOTES & CALLS MINISTRIES

For four months our 11 volunteers have been sending cards, notes or calls to 28 of our members who need reconnecting to Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Now until the end of 2023 our volunteers will send kind, gentle invitations asking them to return to Holy Cross. We can be assured God will hear and answer our prayers as we work to build on the work of the Holy Spirit. "Why should we go to church?" Luke 10:38-42 "Mary chose the one thing needful".

July is the month for volunteers to report their findings to Elaine. She will give a summary to Pastor Patterson.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY

Opportunity to Serve, please prayerfully consider teaching/running Sunday School starting again in September. The classes for this fall will follow a book (The Story Bible) that has a short bible story allowing discussions and an activity suggestion, followed by a prayer. A copy of this great book is available to look at. This means little to no prep work. If we could have a couple teachers, we could have a rotating schedule. This is a great opportunity to make a difference in children's lives leading them to a lifelong relationship with Christ.

HUMAN CARE BLOOD DRIVE

Early Notice To Save The Holy Cross Blood Drive Date August 14, 2023-----3:30PM—7:30PM

Peace—Love—Donate—Summer is the perfect time to do what we love including saving lives thru the gift of Blood Donation!! Our community continues to rely on blood donations and your gift is used to help people who need it most!! VERSITI team members follow CDC, FDA & leadership guidelines to keep donating safe. Watch the weekly News/Notes for more information starting mid July. Contact Barb with any questions...**Thank You In Advance To All Dedicated Donors....**

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

Tuesday Morning Bible Class is back for the Summer! The class is from 10-11:00am in the conference room by the offices. We will be going through the book of Acts. Everyone is welcome!
(No class on Aug. 1 or 8)

OWLS HAPPENINGS

OWLS will meet on Thursday, August 3 at noon in the lower LOFT. Jeanine will host that day and provide a devotion and dessert. Everyone is welcome to come and spend the afternoon with friends in lively conversation, card and table games. Bring you lunch and join us!

OWLS are finalizing plans for the Church Picnic to be held on Sunday, September 10. Grants for funds have been received from Thrivent and will support the Petting Zoo and children's games and prizes.

OWLS will meet on Thursday, August 17 at a picnic site to be arranged. Details will be posted on the bulletin board and you can sign up to get a ride if needed.

GETTING REVVED UP AND READY?

The all-church Vendor Fair is coming up on November 17 & 18. The steering committee has added more members to leadership roles and now there are plenty of opportunities for all the church members to help in big and small ways. Everyone can join in on the planning when the committee meets on August 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Panera in FRG. Be sure to mark your calendar and come to the meeting. This event reaches out to all our neighbors in Cary and beyond. They will be welcomed in Jesus' name and find out more about our church and school. Your prayers and efforts will bear fruit.

JOIN THE "KFC" KITCHEN TEAM!

Kids For Christ will begin again in September and continue Thursdays throughout the school year. The activities are expanding, but supper is a big part of the program. See Chrissy Heiss to get information about providing supper for the kids or join the kitchen team and help with preparations as often as you are available. Speak to Diane for more information.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

We need IT help/direction from someone who is tech savvy. If this is your gift, please help. Contact Ellen Gezella, Office Administrator at our church office (847) 639-1702.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

August 10- School opens at Holy Cross-Please pray for our School!!

August 14 – Blood Drive- 3:30-7:30pm - Fellowship Hall.

September 10 - Church Picnic & Rally Day!!! Food, Fellowship, & FUN and GAMES!!

November 17 & 18- Vendor Fair !!! Sign up as a vendor, volunteer, or come to shop!! Contact Kathy or Diane for more information.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS

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). If you missed the first session and are still interested, contact Pastor Patterson.

OFFERING ENVELOPE “WISH LIST” ITEMS:

Every amount helps towards our needs. **Thank you!**

Planted and beautiful!! Thanks **Aces Landscaping!** More plants are on the way!

Church Landscaping – Replace dead bushes, plants –Costs \$500.00-received \$110.00 to date.

Playground Mulch- Costs \$700.00-received \$410.00 to date (12-14 yds, delivered and spread).

*****UPDATE ON STAINED GLASS WINDOWS*****

WE ARE ALMOST THERE!!! Our Stained-Glass Window Project started in August of 2021 with the signing of a contract with Cathedral Craft and with restoration beginning in May 2022. All the work has been completed and now we must finish with the funding. The cost of this project was **\$152,549**. We have received your generous donations leaving a balance of about **\$2,710.00**. Your support for the project has been much appreciated but we need to finish our journey. Continue with your giving by indicating on your weekly envelope and circle the “Stained Glass Windows” line item. Your donations to this fund are much appreciated. Let’s make an extra effort to complete this project as soon as we can.

GOVERNING BOARD REPORT

At our meeting Tuesday, July 18th, we voted to set 2023 current pay (individual services, bible study) for any guest pastor that would be serving at Holy Cross.

The Board has decided to evaluate other possible governance models that may be more suitable for our congregation at this time. This review and analysis will begin soon and continue in the next several months.

The Board has also been doing a lot of research on the “No Guns” policy and the requirements, if any, that go along with both the school and church facilities. Members of the Board have been in contact with our insurance agent, State Attorney’s office and District office to obtain the most accurate information to make an educated decision on how we will move forward.

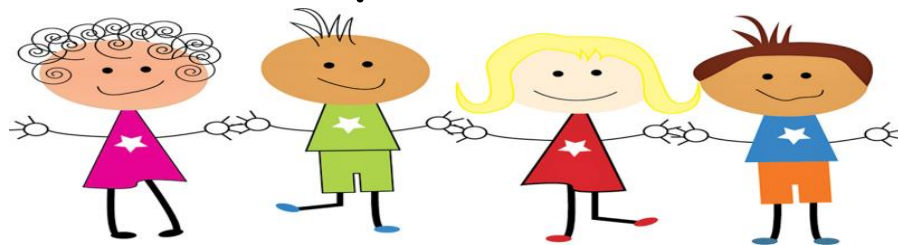
We continue our discussions and reading of the book “The Five Dysfunctions of a Team”. In his book, Patrick Lencioni “outlines a powerful model and actionable steps that can be used to overcome common hurdles and build a cohesive, effective team”.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, August 15th.

Looking for a good end of summer read? Our Holy Cross Library is filled with great books and videos. Find something you like, read or watch and return it for the next person. It’s FREE!! There is even an overflow of books on the nursery shelves.

(If anyone is interested in organizing the books, please contact the office 847-639-1702)

BACK TO SCHOOL TIME



WATCH FOR CHILDREN!!

What's Happening This Month:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 2023	(<i>Pastor on vacation July 25 through Aug. 8</i>)	<u>NO Bible Study</u> ¹	²	³ 12:00pm OWLS- lower LOFT	⁴	NO Worship Service ⁵
⁶ 8:30am Worship (Sanct) 9:45am Bible Study 10:45am Worship (LOFT) (Guest Pastor)	⁷ 6:00pm Juliet's at FRG Panera	⁸ <u>NO Bible Study</u> 3:45pm School Board 7:00pm Cultured Purls (<i>Pastor on vacation July 25 through Aug. 8</i>)	⁹	¹⁰ 10:00pm Prayer Shawl 6:30pm Elder's FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AT HOLY CROSS!	¹¹	¹² 5:30pm Worship 7:00pm Taize
¹³ 8:30am Worship (Sanct) 9:45am Bible Study 10:45am Worship (LOFT)	¹⁴ 3:30-7:30pm Blood Drive at Holy Cross	¹⁵ 10-11am Bible Study 6:30pm Gov. Board	¹⁶	¹⁷ OWLS- picnic	¹⁸ 4-7pm Ice Cream Social at Parsonage	¹⁹ 5:30pm Worship
²⁰ 8:30am Worship (Sanct) 9:45am Bible Study 10:45am Worship (LOFT)	²¹	²² 10-11am Bible Study	²³	²⁴ 10:00am Prayer Shawl @ Panera	²⁵	²⁶ 5:30pm Worship
²⁷ 8:30am Worship (Sanct) 9:45am Bible Study 10:45am Worship (LOFT)	²⁸	²⁹	³⁰	³¹		

**Pray for our school!! Pray for our church!!!
Pray for our Ministries and Volunteers!!!**