



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)

August 2024

FROM PASTORS DESK “ Blasphemy at the Olympics Opening Ceremony“ Pastor Zac Patterson

For those of you who are not aware, the 2024 Summer Olympics began this past week. At the opening ceremony, there was a scene titled “La Cene sur la scene sur la Siene” translating to “The Last Supper on the stage on the River Siene”. In this scene, a group of drag queens made a parody of the Last Supper, taking the place of Jesus and the disciples. There has been quite a lot of outrage, and rightly so. Let us be clear, this is blasphemy. This is evil. We spent the entire time at Bible Class this past Sunday addressing this issue, so be sure to check out that video to hear our discussion (you can find it on our Facebook page or YouTube channel).

For this article, however, I’d like to dig into a passage of Scripture that might provide further help in understanding what our Christian response to things like this should be. This passage is Romans 12:9-21

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.[h] Never be wise in your own sight. 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it[i] to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” 20 To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

These words from St. Paul are extremely hard to live out, yet we are called as Christian to live in exactly that way. He makes three points in how we are to live when persecuted.

First, let your love be genuine. This love is not one that simply loves those who love you, nor simply love those who agree with your worldview. Rather, you are to love those who hate you, who persecute you, who would seek to blaspheme your God and wish you dead. “We love because Christ first loved us” (1 John 4:19). “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). If Christ loved us, and all the world, in this way, then we should strive to love others in that same way, even the members of the Olympic Planning Committee and those who participated in this event.

Second, abhor what is evil. This love we are to show is not the “love” the world would portray; one of acceptance and tolerance of evil. God is love. God abhors evil.

Therefore, we also are to abhor evil. We are to hate it and, as I said in Bible Class, call a spade a spade. "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter" (Isaiah 5:20). It does no one any good to brush aside sin, but instead we should speak the Law in all its sternness, that sinners may come to repentance and our confession be clear.

Third, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God. In our perfectly just anger over sin, we often are tempted to fall into sin by taking action ourselves. We desire to repay evil with evil, but two wrongs don't make a right. When we take judgment into our own hands, we break the 1st Commandment. We essentially say, "Lord, I don't fear, love, and trust in You above all things. I don't trust that You will do Your job, so I'm going to become the Judge. I will sit in the place of God." Instead of breaking this commandment, we are to trust the Lord will bring vengeance, in this life or on Judgment Day. We then are to bless those who curse us and our God, love them, and pray for their repentance.

As Christians, we are to speak the truth in love. What happened at the Olympics was abhorrently blasphemous. Yet, we should not be surprised. The world has been blaspheming God since the beginning, most especially by crucifying God Himself on Good Friday. However, that God they killed still reigns. The God they mocked sits on His throne ruling over them and all creation. We need not worry over the evils of this world. We are to abhor that evil, love and pray for those who commit such evil, and trust that God will bring forgiveness to the repentant and vengeance, wrath, and judgment over those who remain in their sin. To all of this, we say, "God be praised!"

WATCH FOR UPDATES- EMAILS:

We will be doing some exciting and needed improvements to Holy Cross soon. We will be replacing the sanctuary roof, repairing, sealing, striping, and adding more parking spots to our front parking lot and replacing a broken A/C unit in the sanctuary. The large Cross on top of the church is damaged and will be repaired also. Please be sure to watch your email and bulletin for any possible changes in services or parking. Please pray for our church, volunteers, and workers during these repairs.

Our Trustees have been spending a lot of time and working very hard to manage all the repairs and maintenance. Thank You!!!

2024 HUMAN CARE MINISTRY BLOOD DRIVE NOTICE

Early notice to save the date of **August 12, 2024** to donate blood here at Holy Cross. Versiti Blood Centers are again short of blood donors to supply the 600 blood products needed daily to cover the 70+ area hospitals with the transfusions their patients need. The VERSITI team members will follow CDC & FDA guidelines to make donating safe. Let's start the Fall Season off giving a GIFT to someone you'll never know. You can be A Beacon of Hope with your simple gift of donating blood. Thank You To All Dedicated Donors. You Really Know How To Give -- Be A Hero, Give Blood....

SERVICE TIME CHANGE AND TOWN HALL MEETING

Sunday, August 25 Schedule is 9:15am bible class, 10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary, and 11:45am "Town Hall" meeting in Fellowship Hall. (**NO** Sat 5:30pm, Sun 8:30am, or Sunday 10:45am services) Please plan on attending!!!

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

This month's classes are August 6 (potluck), 20, & 27. Watch or call for updates. (No Bible Class 8/13)

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS Meets Sundays at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Takes a break for the summer and will restart on Rally Day, September 8.

!!!!PRAISE TEAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !!!!!

Volunteers keep this service going weekly.

Contact Liz or church office 847-639-1702

- **Vocalists, Musicians**, (especially keyboard & guitar)
- **Run Slides** (already prepared- just need to be advanced during service) **1-2x/month needed**
- **Sound** - Play Track Music/Mute and Unmute Soundboard. **1-2x/month needed.**
Rehearsal 9-10:45 followed by Service on Sundays at 10:45am
- **Ushers- 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays of the month needed**
- **Chair set up- 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays of the month needed**
✠✠✠ Serve one or more Sundays a month. *Low effort, BIG impact!!!*

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Holy Cross Lutheran School is now enrolling for the 24-25 school year. School starts August 8. We're offering grades Pre-K through grade 4, plus hybrid homeschool options. For more information or a school tour, contact Mrs. Chrissy Heiss at the school office at 847-639-6533. Tell your family, friends, and neighbors!

OWLS

OWLS will meet on Thursday, August 1 at noon in the riverfront park in Fox River Grove for a potluck picnic. Sign up on the bulletin board and indicate what you will bring to share at the picnic lunch. OWLS next scheduled meeting on August 15 will be planned at the picnic. Check the bulletin board for the latest information.

A third OWLS event in August will be a trip to Anderson Japanese Gardens in Rockford on a date TBA. Everyone is welcome to join us.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Pastor and Emma Patterson would like to invite everyone from Holy Cross Church and School To the parsonage (90 Erin, Cary) on Friday, August 16 at 4pm for the 2nd Annual Ice Cream Social and Fellowship. A sign-up sheet will be available.

Welcome AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS to Holy Cross

American Heritage Girls (AHG) will meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month in the Lower LOFT from 2-4:00pm. First meeting is August 24, and it goes until May 24, 2024. It is a Christian program for girls ages 5-18. AHG's Program Emphases creates a well-rounded experience for girls. The program emphasizes Faith, Leadership, Social-Emotional Health, Outdoors, Citizenship, & Life Skills. A girl who completes the AHG Program will be a Christ-following servant leader who is honoring, relational, anchored in Christ, and competent: a woman of integrity. Contact Chrissy Heiss for more information.

UPCOMING :

August 5 Hastings will be excavating, prepping back lot & front parking lot for new spaces-

(Aug 5-6-7 no access to front lot-Limited access to back lot.)

August 7 Hastings will be laying asphalt in front lot/repairing in back lot

Thursday, August 8- First Day of School

Friday, August 9- First "Fun Friday" at school

Monday, August 12- Blood Drive- Walk-ins welcome

Friday, August 16- 4-7pm 2nd Annual Ice Cream Social at the Parsonage

Saturday, August 24- First American Heritage Girls Meeting

Sunday, August 25 – Only 10:30 Worship service followed by "Town Hall" meeting.

Sunday, September 8- Church Picnic & Rally Day (Sunday School starts)

Thursday, September 12- KFC starts

AUGUST 2024

What's Happening This Month:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12:00pm OWLS Picnic FRG 6-7pm Dartball	2	3 12:00pm Baptism NO Worship Service
4 8:30am Worship 9:45am Bible Study 10:45am Worship	5 Excavating Lot No access to front Parking lot	6 Bible Class Potluck No access to front parking lot	7 Paving Lot – No Access to front parking lot	8 10:00am Prayer Shawl- here First Day of School!	9 9:25am Chapel First "Fun Friday"	10 5:30pm Worship 7:00pm Taize
11 8:30am Worship 9:45am Bible Study 10:45am Worship	12 Pastor on vacation	13 Pastor on vacation No Bible Class 5-8pm Portillo's School Fundraiser 6:30pm Elder's	14 Pastor on vacation 5:00pm Finance	15 OWLS	16 4-7pm 2 nd Annual Ice Cream Social at the Parsonage	17 5:30pm Worship
18 8:30am Worship 9:45am Bible Study 10:45am Worship	19	20 10am Bible Class 6:30pm Gov. Board	21	22 10:00am-Prayer Shawl- Panera	23	24 NO Worship Service 8:30-3 Lay Leadership Summit 2-4pm American Heritage Girls
25 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 11:45 Town Hall meeting	26 "Crosslink Deadline"	27 10am Bible Class	28	29 6:45pm Trustees (Note day change)	30	