



CROSSLink

2107 3 Oaks Rd, Cary, IL 60013
847.639.1702 Church Office
847.639.6533 Preschool Office
www.HolyCrossCary.org

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

September 2021

From Pastor's Desk

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

Do not be afraid!

Is much easier to say than to do. I look around and I see a lot of fear in our world, and sometimes, if I am honest, I see it also when I look into the mirror. Yet God tells us and all His people of faith, whatever our struggles or burdens, "Do not be afraid, I am your God, I am with you and will help you."

Are you weary and heavy-burdened?

I see a lot of that wherever I look. Sometimes, if I am honest, I see it also when I look into the mirror. Yet God tells us and all His people of faith, "Come to Me and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you.... And you will find rest for your souls."

Let us continue to go to Jesus. Let us accept the tasks and purpose that He has prepared for us and given to us. Let us walk, step in step with Jesus, yoked with Jesus, stepping forward in the ministry, the love, the care, the difference making service that God invites us to be part of as we live our lives as God's people, forgiven and redeemed in Jesus!

How does this all look? Here are some devotional thoughts gleaned from various sources in my devotions and readings this past week:

1. Pray daily
2. Set aside the nostalgia and longing for the way things were years ago. This might seem to be an odd thing to commend, but God is calling us forward. In other words, let us not unwittingly discourage others by always sounding like we long for 'the days of old'. Learn lessons from the past, be encouraged, become wiser, but know that God's plan and purpose for us is ahead of us.
3. Look forward, don't always be looking back! Encourage one another. This ties in with #3. People quit coming to church, etc., because 'it's not like it used to be'. 'I miss the pastor', 'I miss the people',.... "I miss not having to wear a mask!!!" But we worship the Lord. Wherever God's Word is read, wherever God's Holy Sacraments are rightly administered, God is present. Let us come and worship the Lord. Let us break through the barriers, distractions and temptations that would keep us away from God's Word. Let us join the Psalmist when he says, ***'I rejoiced with those who said to me, Let us go to the house of the LORD.'*** ***Ps 122:1***
4. Surrender totally and completely to the Lord! Be totally and completely dedicated and committed to the Lord!

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:1-2

Yes, we are facing some head winds and things that could easily discourage us, if we let them. But the Lord assures us that He is with us and will NOT forsake us. Let us NOT forsake Him! Let us trust the Lord, in ALL things, and following Him and going where He leads us, let us continue to discover, together, what God has in mind for Holy Cross Lutheran as we go forward in His grace and blessing!

And, in difficult times and in all times, let us be wise, and show and reflect love, care, compassion and kindness to one another and to all, for we are the people of God! We will not be afraid!

Keep the faith! Keep leaning on Jesus!

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

PASTOR NOTES:

- 1. MASKS – I am disappointed that this issue has been thrust upon us once again – whatever our varied opinions may be, it is what it is..... whereas:**
 - a. We recognize that our State Governor has again mandated that masks be worn by all people indoors.
 - b. Our District President tells us that he believes “it would seem wise to comply with this mask mandate”. (see enclosed portions of a letter from our District President)
 - c. **therefore:** We strongly encourage all members and guests to wear a mask while indoors. Out of love and concern for the weaker among us and in respect of those who are in authority over us, we will be wise and respectful to all in our words and actions!
- 2. The Church Picnic on August 29 was such a joyful experience.** The shade under the trees on the east side of the church was the perfect place. We had over 100 people who attended! Great conversations, fellowship, food... The Petting Zoo was a hit. Several families from the area attended and the kids LOVED the animals. To all involved in making this happen, WELL DONE! Thank you!
- 3. Finance Committee** is at work striving to make certain that our financial blessings/savings are a blessing and not a hindrance to the faithful stewardship and ministry work that God has in mind for us going forward. We want to make certain that we are using all our resources to do all the work of ministry that God is calling us to do. We do not want to be guilty of ‘burying’ our talents! In all things, we want to be acting wisely, but without fear, trusting the Lord and one another! Watch for updates in next couple of months as we hear their recommendations!
- 4. MAC Ministry Action Council** is at work, meeting each month. This group is helping us coordinate and put into action ministry ideas that address ministry needs among and around us.
- 5. Confirmation Classes** are getting restarted in September. I will be working with the class we started last year, looking at a Confirmation date of October 24. I will also start a new confirmation class for students who are in 6th, 7th & 8th grades who are not in the current class.
- 6. Pastor’s Class for Prospective New Members AND for members to review the basics of what God’s Word says about Our Christian Faith.** I am looking at Sundays, Noon to 1:30 PM, starting September 19. Call the church office or Pastor Meyer if you are interested or have any questions.
- 7. Get Involved!** We are looking to add more volunteers to the following areas of current and new ministry services:
 - a. Scripture Readers
 - b. Choir Members
 - c. Ushers
 - d. Sunday School & Kids for Christ teachers & aides
 - e. Altar Guild
 - f. Bread Ministry
 - g. Trustees/Grounds/IT
- 8. Again, pray daily! Grow in Bible Study, devotion and worship! Be totally and completely committed to the Lord Jesus in all things! JESUS IS LORD! We worship Him!**
- 9. WE WILL NOT BE AFRAID! The Lord is with us!**

Letter from District President: Dr. Allan Buss

(selected portions)

Dear Partners in the Gospel and the Lord's Church,

"What's next?" Many of us have found ourselves asking that question in many circumstances, including recent COVID challenges.

But before we despair, disengage, become bitter or lose heart, we are reminded, "He (Christ) is before all things, and by him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:17) We are being held together, and you and I are being held in the blood stained hands of Jesus. We rejoice in His eternal promises. No wonder we are hope-filled and grateful. I sincerely thank you for all the time, effort and wrestling over the last year and now again. Your labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

In a phone call with a lay leader last evening, we discussed recent mandates and how congregations and schools deal with these new challenges. We seem always to be asking, "Now what?" In these discussions the Lord will provide grace, strength and wisdom especially "peace through his blood, shed on the cross." (Colossians 1:20) While not always obvious, we ask **"What is in the best interest of the congregation and those who gather?"** Never far away is, **"How does this decision effect not only my personal perspective but also my neighbor whom I love in Christ?"** As hard as it can be, there are times we need to set aside our personal opinions for the sake of others. We do not set aside the Word of God!

Governor Pritzker mandated, effective August 30, 2021, that face masks will be mandatory, regardless of one's vaccine status, in all public indoor spaces throughout the state. We have been in direct contact with the Illinois Department of Public Health and have been informed that the mandate does include houses of worship. In all our conversations with the Alliance for Defending Freedom, we have heard that it is their understanding that there is not a religious liberty issue when dealing with mask wearing in public worship or in our Lutheran Schools.

Wearing masks does not limit our opportunity to assemble to hear God's Word and receive His sacraments. It does not prevent us from carrying out the godly task of teaching children in our schools. Out of consideration and respect for the government as well as for the vulnerable among us, it would seem wise to comply with this mask mandate.

We encourage engagement with our federal, state and local leaders as part of our calling as Christians who are citizens. We have many ways to express concerns as well as care for our country and community. We are regularly praying for good government.

Included in the Governor's orders is a mandate that school workers either be vaccinated or submit to a weekly COVID test to show they are not carrying the virus. As always, we would urge, in Christian love and care for our neighbor, that each of us would respect the health decisions of each person, as they determine whether they will be vaccinated or undergo weekly screenings.

(there is a little more to the letter, but I think that this is more than enough for us in this place) The letter does give us the following district web page where we can find updates....

..... find updates on our web page at nidcms.org/coronavirus,

Tuesday Morning Bible Study Returns

Tuesday morning Adult Bible Study, led by Pastor Ross, returns September 7 from 10:00-11:00AM in the fellowship hall. The topic will be select readings from the major prophets starting with Isaiah. All are welcome.

Call Committee Update

Dear Members and Friends of Holy Cross:

It is with sincere honor and humility that we have been chosen to represent all of our members by serving on the Pastoral Call Committee for Holy Cross. We do realize the importance of our work and promise to faithfully uphold our duties. There are a couple things we would like to share with you as we proceed.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! The best way for you to help is with prayer. We are asking you to pray for three things regarding the Call process.

1. Please pray for our committee. Pray that we consider the needs of our congregation as well as the needs of our community. Pray that we closely examine our hearts and seek the best candidate for this Call, free of any individual agenda, looking out for the best interest of the congregation, and seek the will of God.
2. Please pray for both our next resident Pastor and our current Pastor. God already knows who our next resident Pastor is. Pray that He opens his heart and mind, and leads him to us. Also, keep our present Pastor in your prayers as he guides us through this process.
3. Please pray for our congregation. Pray that we all realize this is not our Call, but God's Call. Help us put past differences behind us and let us all work together for the good of the congregation, putting our own pride and desires aside.

Please pray often for these three things. We believe if we wrap this entire process in prayer, God will send us the right man. Remember it is not our Call but His.

We have already done several things to start the process. The Interim Task Force has put together a very thorough profile of our congregation. They shared this at a congregational meeting and with the District President. The District President has reviewed this document, met with members of the committee as well as some Elders, the Governing Board and members of the congregation. With all of the information he has gathered, he feels comfortable in starting the process of gathering some names of possible candidates.

We are also collecting names of candidates from our members. A pastor nomination form is included at the end of this newsletter or a form can be picked up from the church office. **The deadline for submitting a name is Monday, September 13.** All forms must be turned into the church office so they can be passed on to the call committee for submission to the district office.

We have a very ambitious time line in mind. However we want to make sure we don't rush things too quickly. We would like to extend our first Call sometime before Christmas. With hard work and a lot of prayer, we feel this is a realistic goal. We plan to keep the congregation updated throughout the process with updates in the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter, and periodic announcements in the church services.

If you would like more information, please contact the church office or one of the committee members. Once again, please keep the congregation, our future Pastor and our Call Committee in your prayers.

Sincerely,

The Call Committee

Mike Dunker, Chair
Gary Rintz

Steve Dority
Katie Shaykin

Diane Perrone
Jim Urbates

Mike Kawasaki
Pastor Glenn Meyer

What is a Bread Ministry?

Bread Ministry is a way for Holy Cross to welcome our visitors, thank them for coming and encourage them to come back for worship the next weekend and meet other members. Would you like to be a part of this Bread Ministry? Call Elaine Hagenmueller for more information.

Fish Club Returns

New Year of FISH Club Begins September 12th! NEW TIMES, NEW IDEAS!

We know it's going to be an exciting and educational year for the kids! With Jesus at the center, the kids connect to God and each other through a variety of fun activities. They craft. They play. They even eat creative snacks. All in a way that reinforces God like nothing else. Please join us ages 3 through 6th grade every Sunday! We're sure the kids will grow in their relationship with Jesus and meet a few new friends along the way.

For the month of **September ONLY (dates - September 12, 19 and 26)**, we are going to try two sessions of Sunday School on Sunday mornings. The goal is to get more participation and welcome more families from our community to join us for our service(s).

Here's the plan:

- **Session One: from 9:35-10:30AM, immediately following the 8:30 worship service.**

I hope to see our older kids at this time which will allow us to have a more age-fit lesson, but everyone is welcome. This also allows parents who wish to attend Adult Bible Study to have the kids also learning God's word at the same time.

- **Session Two: during the 10:45AM worship service, starting at approximately 11:10AM until 12PM.**

The kids will all start the service with their families and enjoy the opening music. Pastor Meyer will have a short Children's Sermon, then the kids will join us in the Lower LOFT for our normal rotational style FISH Club. This is a new test to see if we have more participation and see new families that want to try Sunday School!

Volunteers Needed - ONLY 1x Per Month

We are looking for **four (4) new volunteers this year** -- the preference is 2 (two) adult volunteers and 2 (two) high school volunteers that only need to commit to one Sunday every month (pick which session fits your schedule). It really only comes down to 1-1.5 hours per month. The curriculum is organized and set in advance so prep time for before your week is 15-30 minutes.

Questions about the curriculum or interested in volunteering? Contact Tania German.

Stained Glass Window Update

Thank you to all the members who attended the voters' meeting on Sunday, August 22. There were three options up for vote. Option #2 received the most votes.

OPTION #2 \$157,139

Restore all stained-glass windows that we presently have and use 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.

Thank you to Mel Molzer and Steve Olson for all their work meeting with the company and working out the details for restoring our stained glass windows. We will keep the congregation informed of the progress.

College Care Packages

We will again be sending college care packages to our **Holy Cross students** away at college. If you have a student who would like to receive a package filled with goodies, please give the student's **NAME AND ADDRESS**, food allergy information and your contact name and phone number/email address to Ellen Gezella by **Sunday, September 19**.

If you would like to donate items for the packages we will have tear off lists on the Narthex and LOFT bulletin boards. **Donations** should be placed in the designated collection baskets in the Narthex and LOFT foyer by **Sunday, September 26**. Donations toward shipping costs or gift cards are also appreciated, and can be placed in the offering plate marked clearly for "**COLLEGE CARE**" donation.

Thank you from our Human Care Ministry for supporting our young adults as they are away from home. It is comforting to them to know their Holy Cross family is remembering them in thoughts and prayers.

Choir Resuming

Do you like to sing? Then you should come to choir, of course! September is the ideal time to start up with us. Come try it out, we know you will like it.

Did you know that singing in a choir is as good for you as exercise?

- reduces stress
- enhances your immune system
- improves breathing and circulation
- releases those 'feel-good' hormones

God is gracious to provide physical and mental benefits to singing to him as he commands. By participating you are leading a witness to the great things our God has done. Why not enhance your spiritual and physical life in choir? **Starting September 8, we meet every Wednesday night at 7:00 PM in the balcony.**

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.

Steen Metz, a holocaust survivor, will be giving his first-hand account of the holocaust at the Ela Area Lake Zurich Public Library on Wednesday September 29 at 7:00 PM. If interested, you can register beginning September 1 at 9:00 AM by calling the library Information Desk at 847-438-3433 or going to the following website: eapl.libnet.info and going to "events" for September 29. The in-person presentation is limited to 50, first come first serve, so registration needs to be made promptly on September 1. **MASKS ARE MANDATORY TO ATTEND IN PERSON.** The presentation will also be available on "ZOOM". Contact the library by phone at 847-438-3433 to register for the ZOOM presentation. The library's address is: 275 Mohawk Trail, Lake Zurich (just off Old Rand Road). Should you have any questions, contact Mel Molzer at 847-639-8024 or melmolzer@aol.com.

September is Suicide Prevention Month

Our LWML Zone 4 will be holding a Fall Rally on Saturday, September 11 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Woodstock. The featured speaker will be Pastor Schalk speaking on the topic of Suicide Prevention. Everyone is invited to attend, beginning at 9:00 AM with a light breakfast. This is also suitable for older children and teens. No registration is required. You may bring your MITE box to add your support to worldwide mission projects.

September 2021

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